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Reprinted the last Michaelmas Term, The Works of Francis Osborn Esq; Divine, Moral, Historical and Political, in 4 several Tracts,

Viz.

1. *Advice to a Son, In two parts.*
2. *Political Reflexions on the Government of the Turks, &c.*
3. *Memoirs on Q. Elizabeth and K. James.*
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REFLEXIONS

Johnson ON

Marriage,

AND THE

Poetick *Discipline*.

A Letter,

By the **AUTHOR** of the
Remarques on the
TOWN.

LONDON,
Printed for *Allen Bancks*, at the Sign of
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To the

R E A D E R.

IT has not only been the Fashion, but esteemed a Justice in every Age, to assist those Theams that have been run down by a Popular practice and contempt: Marriage appear'd so to the Author of the following Paper; which suffers too much in the loss of its Veneration and Esteem; had any more Dexterous, found that Generosity about them, as to have performed an act of so much Justice, they had prevented this attempt of the Author, who writes not out of affectation nor a busy humour. But it

To the Reader.

seemes the wits are revolted, and have taken imployment under a Tyrannick, and prosperous vice : whilst those who are best able to appear for so excellent a Subject, have deserted it, the assistances of meaner Persons , though they may want the applauses of Success , yet they lose not the Character of Kindness. And when others are strangely imployed [in heaping] Reproaches upon Marriage, and in ascribing disadvantages to it, whilst they affront it with their new Witt, and their modish Vices , nothing can appear more Just, then to vindicate it, by Recapitulateing those benefits that it has produced in the world : it is a witness great enough of its misfortunes, that it needs to be Harangued ; since its practicall Esteem and Veneration, had 'till now preserved it from the want of Elogies : but
when

To the Reader.

when it is reduc'd to that condition it is high time to erect it Monuments, whilst the world is so fast forgetting its Reputation and its Grandeur. But whilst the Author has attempted this, he must say in his own Justification, that he has only interess'd himself in the Subject, without reflecting upon any that have procur'd it injuries: and indeed every Writer, should proclaim like the Roman; *Pacem cum Hominibus, Bellum cum vitiis*. 'Tis far from his humour to show a disrespect of that nature to any Person, and as far from his belcif, that the way to reclaim others, were to expose them by severe Reflexions. they will do him an injustice who think so of him; and equally traduce him, who should take his taxing the Crimes of some, for a Censure on the whole Community: he only designs to

A ♦ show

To the Reader.

show the vanity and the fault of those who becoming enamoured on a fatal humour, must yet make their addresses to it in so strange a manner, as to impose it on the belief and practices of others; and in ascribing the concurrence of the whole Town to the efforts of a private Humour. We are well assured, that those vices have found impregnable more Persons then they can pretend to have Conquer'd. Though at the same time, since all Vice is progressive, and especially when it is push'd on, by so strange a confidence and affectation, it is but necessary to fix some Accusations on that Practice, whose noise and daring temper, may in time, make more considerable devastations in the possessions of that Vertue, which yet is left secure and uncorrupted. And the Author designs this Declaration not only as
an

To the Reader.

an excuse for the following Paper, but also as a Justification of what he has formerly written, in which he finds himself censured as taxing the whole Town with those blemishes, which he only affixed to the affected and imposing humour; though he can esteem that reproach as no other than an Evasion and an Artifice in the faulty, since those whose innocence is assured, never concern themselves in any Reflexions which belong not to them.

—Thus far I had written, when I received an Answer to my *Remarques*; but it was neither with *Trouble* nor *Surprize*; since I very well know, that it is impossible for the most modest Adversary to defend himself from the present briskness of the Town wit: which spares neither a Friend nor an Enemy: the trade of *Poetry* and *Raillery* [must] go on,

To the Reader.

or else all the Town wit [must] be starv'd. I received no disorder in the least from any thing in his Book; only his Preface put me into a little heat, in which I [must] tell him, that amongst all the bad Company he beleives I have kept, I yet never met with any thing so disingenuous and ill-bred as his odious Epistle: and I can assure him, that I have given the World greater proofs then himself of contrary Impressions: but the anger is over, and I am his most Humble Servant; and though he beleives me to be a *Pedant*, a *Tutor*, a *Secretary*, and *Squire Clodpate*. I will yet imagine him to be a great Wit, a Gentleman, and if he pleases a Person of Quality: for I alwayes find it more easy, as well as more civil, to give Elogies, rather then reviling: as for his design, it was brave, and not at all

To the Reader.

all *Dangerous*; for what could he do less, when he was perpetually egg'd on by a fair Lady who was resolved not to admit of his Courtships, except he appear'd prodigiously Ingenious, as he is otherwise sweetly accomplisht: the appearing of a *Capriccio*, like that Princess, who would have refused for her Gallant, the handsomest man in *Europe*, if he had not been also at the same time, the greatest wit of the *Conclave*. I congratulate you Madam, in the choice you have made, of a Servant; he has acquitted himself well of your Lady-ships Commands; and I hope, when you have any others, you will not bestow them else where: but yet if at any time, you should request him to write your Life, let me beseech you, to forbid him to put an Epistle before it, for he has the worst faculty that way.

To the Reader.

way, of any Gentleman I know
All that I shall say to his Book;
is, that it is throughout one great
mistake; and that first, in tak-
ing those Reflexions to be intend-
ed for all the Town, which were
only directed to a very few Per-
sons. And then to affirm that
the words of *Age*, *Nation*, *Town*,
Societies, &c. were General, since
it is so plainly to be seen, by
the *Censure*, and the *Character*, that
none but a foole would have treat-
ed them in that manner: an Age,
a Nation, a Town, in which are
so much Learning, Bravery, and
Vertue; and particularly, those
Societies that are by all the
world honoured and revered, for
those endowments the Gentleman
has mentioned in them. All that
I prosecuted was a vain and en-
terprizing humour, which hay-
ing (upon occasions apparent)
found amongst some of the Wits;
I

To the Reader.

I after followed where it had
took refuge in graver Communi-
ties, the former received the re-
search, like those who are just-
ly esteemed the greatest Wits
of our Nation : but amongst the
latter, it met with the *Haloo*,
and the *Ran-dan* for the Coun-
try: this it is to have any thing
to do with those Gentlemen, for
my part I disclaim them, and
shall hereafter be as unwilling to
Note their Imperfections, as I
have ever been to admire their
sort of Vertue. Another great
mistake is, that I designed Sir, T.
L. for a *Hero*: what was intend-
ed in him, was only to show
that a Gentleman who had ar-
rived at all the perfections of a
good Education, might live more
prudently on his Estate in the
Countrey, then to spend it in the
Town, only on women, Playes,
Garniture, and Fricacies: and
this

To the Reader.

this Gentleman knowes (who must be a man of the Law by his frequent Quotations.) That his Majesties Father of Glorious Memory, Commanded by Proclamation, all Country Gentlemen to reside on their Estates, and not to come to the Town, to *Hero-ize* in eating of Ragoos, and *Fricacies* : and in short, next to those whose affairs lye in it, it is properly a place for younger Brothers, who may raise their Fortunes, by Armes, Letters, or Conversations. I think I have in these few lines, answered all that the Gentleman has Objected. There is only a great deal of Divertisment, Reviling, hard Words if not Pedantry too, behind : for which I shall say in the Gentlemans behalf, that as for the former, he endeavour'd to imitate the present mode of Writing, and he does excellently well for a beginner,

To the Reader.

ginner, and he may easily be excused if he has reach'd but few of those perfections required in that criticall Stile : and as for the latter, having to do with a *Pedant*, and a *Tutor*, he could not but forget that Civility and Respect, which without doubt, is (otherwise) naturall to him : and he thought it needless, to use any of the Lawes (which he found not in his study) of *Writeing-Mas-carade* ; since he thought himself not at all obliged to show any respect to one in a *Vizzard*. But I resolve, for my own part, to be more carefull, and wish heartily his friendship and reconciliation ; and if the Gentleman, who has succeeded so well in Letters, should also make his applications to *Armes*, if Sir, T. L. and his Tutor, meet him in the spring, on board his Majesties Fleet. I know that Person, will
endeavour

To the Reader.

endeavour a friendship betwixt
this worthy Gentleman, and his
Mothers Secretary: but I would
not willingly defer it so long;
but rather perfect now so Im-
portant an affair. Come Sir, you
are out of humour; I wish we
might enjoy you a little in our
Country; where you should have
good entertainment, though you
might not meet *Astrea* there,
(whole allusion you so unkind-
ly mistook) my Lady will treat
you with extraordinary Magni-
ficence, and her Secretary shall
serve you with great officious-
ness: you shall Drink, Hunt,
Hawke, Course, nay you shall
stay on *Sunday*, and hear our
Parson, who is an honest Gen-
tleman, though possible he can-
not Preach so Divinely as *Maximin*.
I have now done with the Gentle-
man. I have only a word to say to
the Town, and particularly the vin-
dictive

To the Reader.

dictive Ladyes ; as for any thing in the Remarques, I do affirm on the reputation (with my Answerers good leave I would say it) of a Gentleman, that I never intended it in the least, to impair the reputation of excellent Persons ; or the Conversations of the Town : and I hope no other will be guilty of so unkind a mistake, as to think I meant Age, Nation, and Town, any otherwise, then as they are frequently applyed to particular humours : Nay I will say further to prevent any other Essayes ; that the Remarques was in a manner Printed against my desire, (though I will not accuse a Gentleman who had eat, and drank, and slept in an Inns of Court.) And besides, that there are some things in it

To the Reader.

it which were not my own.
I know there is no Person
of Justice and good Nature,
but will be satisfied with this
Apology : and as for others,
I am wholly careless of their Cen-
sure.

To

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ers,
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To Antonia.

NOthing is more just then the Dedicating this following Paper to you: neither could any consideration oblige me to forbear it: and even whilst it seeks a shade, it yet desires so illustrious a patronage. what ever censure it receives in the world, will soon be forgot in the kindness you will shew it; and the favour of so excellent a Person, will sufficiently reinforce it against all the assaults of custome and prejudice. And in the privacies where we now are, I may assume the liberty to say, we are the votaries of the neglected Theme; and acknowledge the Divinity of that Altar which the Irreligion of the Age has abandoned: all our regret is the difficulty we have found in making that sacri-

vice, which is now esteemed the degenerate Devotion of the world. Though Vertue has lost its Train, yet it receives the most obsequious respect from us; and it has not been our hearts but our conditions, that have refused its conduct in the track of Ages. We are not yet become Atheists to a Hymen, nor deserters of a fidelity which is laden with reproaches: Neither do we recount these things in a shade, because we blush to avow them in the Sun beams. No Antonia, we have deposited those resolutions in faithful assurances, which we would at any time be willing to lay out for so fair a purchase: in which also we have preserved our Vertue, like snow, that's in cold houses saved from the Estive seasons of a raging vice: the age has no propitious sentiments from us, nor do we value the reproach of being singular in our Vertue, the ancient Ideas, though the world may pretend they are faded, are yet more charming to us, then the gayness of their
present

present Images : All their Paint and
imbellishments cannot enamour us on
these ; nor has the dirt they have
flung upon the former , prevented us
from admiring an unequall'd beauty
in them. We have given them the As-
cendants of our soules ; and they have
fashion'd there that fidelity and justice,
which will be for ever the ornament of
our breasts : neither do those qualities
appear less fair and agreeable to us,
whilst their habilements are out of mode.
Now the popular fury and practise has
proscribed a vertuous love, it receives
a protection in our hearts ; and we can
boast, that it shall never be refin'd but
with our lives : we are sorry to give
it no larger a Territory ; and we
would gladly lead it farther into the
affairs of our lives : we are not stopped
in those designs by the Platonick pre-
caution, nor a fear to try our Ideas by
action : we have took other measures of
a just and happy life : and prefer the
example of generous Ages, before the
fictions

fiction of Romance: tis not because we
love their beautifull wanderings; that
we are kept in a perplexing Labyrinth;
and know not how to come at what we
love; Since it is not our humours, but
our affairs, conceale the Clue. In the
mean time, our inclinations and our
wishes will appear a justice to that de-
sign; and a respect to the memory of
our Fathers: Nay, we rather see our-
selves deprived of some of the felicities,
then cut off from the generos inte-
rests of that State: we have erected vo-
luntive Altars to Hymen; and pay the
more disinterested part of the Devo-
tion: our Piety has nothing in it of
Mercenary, whilst the mind is the on-
ly Devote. We have surpassed the
Poetick Chymera's, by a truth that has
out done their Fables; and yet that
passion which has equal'd their flights,
shall ever keep it self above those loath-
some places where they rest their Geni-
nius: it is not grown giddy by the
height; nor will its flight ever become
the

the Paecipice of its ruine. No Antonia, we have alwayes maintained the limits of Fidelity, and Iustice; nor can we ever allow our love that fatal Sovereignty, as to be above the Laws of our Vertue. We have seen too much of their misfortune, who assist a Tyrannick Passion; whilst they unhappily help it to acquire, a Felicity and Grandeur, to which it mounts on the ruines of their Repose and Honour: in our united hearts our Love has room enough to reign; and the management of those just affairs will allow it no leisure for Ambition. I have entertained you Antonia, in a manner unusual: but it cannot appear unbandsome to the Age, since it is but to imitate their divertisments in Mascarade. And to the rest, it will only show a covetousness like to theirs, who hoarded under ground their Treasures; esteeming that to be yet their Wealth, which they did not dare to own. And we have moreover, exceeded their felicity

felicity ; who have on wounded
Trees , or Marble, sought an
immortality for their Love : since we
have now committed ours to more per-
petual abiding Letters ; and though we
have set it in a shade, and a Chara-
cter unknown, yet we will expect that
propitious time , that shall both reveal,
and interpret it.

REFLEXIONS

(1)

REFLEXIONS

ON

Marriage, &c.



Did not think;
that when we
entertain'd our
selves with the
little Modern

Philosopher, you would af-
ter have demanded those
things from me in earnest,
which were then our diver-
tishment: but since you have
been so inclined, I obey you

B

readi-

readily, both, as I should
 blush to refuse any satisfac-
 tion to a Person who has so
 grandly obliged me; and al-
 so, as I have a repugnance to
 quit my declared opinions.
 But, I hope you consider,
 that you desire these things
 from a young man, who is
 incapable of doing right to
 so great, and so important
 a Subject; and one, who
 besides, can furnish the dis-
 course with no experiences
 of his own; and moreover,
 the distresses of that Theam,
 require the assistances of the
 most dext'rous and generous
 Pen, whilst it lyes bleeding
 in

in the armes of a barbarous
 Age ; who perfectly forget-
 ting the respect it has receiv-
 ed from all Generations ;
 and the brave assistances it
 gives to humane nature ; to-
 gether with the particular
 obligations it has laid on
 themselves , are upon the
 point of finishing its be-
 ing in the world, without
 the least ceremony or shew
 of regret. Such a Prospect,
 requires the assistances of the
 noblest Pen, which can do
 no less then purchase to the
 owner the immortal fame
 of a Hero ; since Marriage
 is not now assaulted from

B a the

the Ambushes of *Closters*;
 nor from a lustful Fryer;
 But by the fairest preten-
 ders to generosity and noble-
 nels, whose Protection have
 in all Ages been sought by
 those distressed Interests,
 which have fled from the fu-
 ry of *Pedants*. Whilst I thus
 represent to you the impor-
 tance of this Action, I shew
 you my inability to do it.
 But, since it is for the satis-
 faction of a Friend, I think
 your Ingenuity and candour
 are too great, to expect a
 sufficiency from a man he has
 not about him. Neither
 can I believe, that you want
 any

any Motives to assist you in your just resolutions; that condition appearing too lovely in it self, to want the imbellishments of Eloquence: besides the glories of the object you care for, whose perfections and accomplishments are so great, as hardly to be equalled within the compass of our Isle. And were there not as much of pride as inclination in the present humours, we might very well question whether the most hardy of our Gallants, did they every day converse with whose beautiful endowments which

She possessees would not willingly despise the glory of condemning Marriage for such an injoyment, and even be contented to be vertuous, rather then not be happy : this we have reason to believe would be their resolution, were they not strictly tyed up to the high Rules of their Ambition and Glory; starving their judgements, whilst they feed their pride and affectation. Your design wants none of the following Arguments to justify it, nor to keep your reason from submitting to the fantastical definitions of the self-conceited.

ed *Malmsbury* Philosopher.
 And I must reminde you of
 one thing more ; which is ,
 that as in Pictures , so in
 such considerable draughts
 of humane Interests and Af-
 fairs , there must still be
 wanting those graces and that
 lovelyness , which no Des-
 cription nor Account can
 reach ; it being impossible
 for the glorious life to be ri-
 valled by the sweetest Paint ;
 and we can only lay the co-
 lours, and a simetry of parts,
 whilst the beauty and the
 charm are above the reach of
 Pens. It will yet be neces-
 sary, to keep your thoughts

together, to pursue a Method, and to decline the hunting-mode of writing now in use, of running Remarks here and there, as the tancy of the Author leads him: Marriage is our Theam; and the justness, necessity, and advantages of it, the Subjects to be inquired into. It is now the opinion of those which will pretend to understand most, That the world has been fool'd in nothing more, then in an idle and a tame submitting to the fetters of Marriage; that some one, unknown to them, did most injuriously

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juriously inflave so many
 Generations with this dull
 institution; which did up-
 on that account, lose the
 freedom and the vigour of
 generous actions, and mis-
 carried in those Essayes, that
 would have shewed a greater
 bravery and glory of Minde.
 All Ages being left such im-
 perfect draughts of Heroick
 vertue, because the Genius
 was captived that drew them,
 which if it had known a just
 liberty, former Generations
 would have been as perfect
 as the present is like to ap-
 pear. They think that if
 such a company of Hero's,

had been born into these parts of the world, who had been free of this Clog, *Egypt* had never sat so long slumbering with its Arms a cross; whilst the *Turk* plundered it of its beautifull Provinces; but that its Moones had been Eclipsed by those, who with the quickness of *Cæsar*, had ranged the numerous Regions of the East; carrying their victories so farr upon the Traverse till they had found no day light to conquer by: but the World has wanted these Heroick flights, whilst it has been the impediments of

V. Ved.

these had En-ong s a un-ro-nes se, of e-; to ll t e e
 Wedlock, that made it sit
 so long ingloriously still,
 and to paint the Scenes of its
 adventures with so much
 imperfection and dulness.
 But when we shall find that
 the world has received no
 greater benefits by the Ido-
 lators of Liberty, then from
 the votaries of Wedlock;
 and when it will appear that
 nothing is more just to man-
 kind then that condition;
 we shall be able to return so
 criminable a Charge. These
 Ages define more prudently,
 and with greater moderation;
 who made not bravery of
 minde a Knight errant hur-
 mour;

labour, submitting to all the
 risques of Fancy and Appe-
 tite; the world has suffer'd
 by nothing more then in this
 useless noise, nor could
 there have been an act of
 greater prudence, then to
 put the shackles on this mad
 and wild Liberty, which
 would more then any other
 thing; have disorder'd hu-
 mane Affairs. True noble-
 ness and glory, is regular and
 managed; and not like that
 Goddess born on the brain:
 an infinite number of bene-
 fits and publique kindnesses,
 save long in Counsell how to
 define it; nor have they pass-
 ed

sed its Character without
 many correctings and emen-
 dations ; they have drawn to-
 gether different perfections ;
 and then tryed them all (like
Emmas Purgation) by the
 vigour of humane affaires ,
 our Ancestours conferred
 not their favours so readily ,
 nor did they admitt those in-
 to the family of Heo's, who
 were considerable only, for
 a peculiar wildness and fren-
 zy of minde : the present
 managers of Genius's, may
 try their off-spring by their
 Poetick fire, but they ought
 not to do that injustice to
 their Fathers , as to affirm
 they

they adored no other light,
They have introduced *Chymera*
 then, and have exploded ex-
 cellent **R**ealities, who have
 dislodged braveries of **M**inde
 from the circles of **M**arriage;
 and with them they have rob'd
 the world of great advantages;
 of which I shall give you a
 prospect in this following Pa-
 per. **T**o oblige mankind,
 by an obligation sacred, and
 unalter'd, to the affairs and in-
 terests of one **L**ove, was an
 act of that prudence and wis-
 dome against which none can
 justly dispute; **T**hey could
 with no equity, have raised a
Title to more; since the Law
 of

of nature proclaims that [*Love*
ing of one should be for one enough]
 and that **Sex** must have been
 left in a condition wholly base
 and mercenary, to have took
 the pay of every **Amour** ; they
 would have set up a **Tyranny**
 in **Love**, which must have been
 the most cruel and insupporta-
 ble of all others, because exer-
 cised on the best interests of
Life. Marriage puts the
 world into Discipline, and a
 happy government ; inclose-
 ing the common injoyment,
 that none might lay claim to
 the portion of an other : had
 beauty, and the possession of
 that Sex, been left a prey to
 the

the Conquerour, and subject
 to be borne away by the most
 forceible courtships, mankind
 must have ever dwelt jealous of
 each other, proclaiming an
 enmity against all the World;
 and have judged their power a-
 lone, a sufficient defence: but
 by the force of matrimoniall
 Laws, and the allotments
 made us from above, we live in
 quiet and security with each o-
 ther, who must else have stood
 perpetually on our guard, and
 secured what we had loved
 from the wandering Lusts of
 others, the world must have
 been perpetually involved in
 Quarrels; since Love is more
 rest-

restless, and more impatient
 then **Ambition**: and whilst a
 charming object had many
 claimers, she must at last have
 yeilded to the Conquerour;
 and not have gratified the pas-
 sion of the most deserving, but
 the most happy, being without
 the exercise of that **Empire**
 which **Halcion Lawes** had gave
 her, that must have been whol-
 ly lost amidst the animosities
 of **Rivals**. Or if mankind
 had been wearyed into a more
 Friendly way of living, and
 yeilded that to indifference,
 which they pretend would have
 been the effect of **Society**: yet
 still the world must have lost
 it.

its **G**lory to preserve its **P**ea-
 ce: and like those despised **R**egi-
 ons, who are therefore quiet
 because they bannish all things
 that would invite a **C**onquest.
The use of excellent things
 must have been laid aside, and
 the **W**orld must have practised
 the wisdom of a prudent **C**on-
 fort, who disbands her beau-
 ties to cure the jealousies of a
Husband. And as the great
Cato urged the preserving of
Carthage, to keep up the vi-
 gour of the **R**oman vertue
 which would languish when it
 had nothing to emulate; so
 such an indifference, must have
 yeilded up all things of a gene-
 rous

rous ; concernment. Most actions of bravery and glory, receive a motive and originall from without ; and as we have seen , that all Ages have applyed themselves to those things that procured the esteem and the reward , Vertue presently fading, when it wants the Sun-shine of applause and emulation, and the showers of recompence : so no consideration of particular concernments in Love, and the study of appearing gratefull and accepted, had brought a greater dulness on the world, then a present reflexion can readily discover, neither shall we affirm

a thing at all unjust, to say, that the world owes not inconsiderable benefits to a vertuous Love; and that, not so much as it has brought upon its bosome so many Hero's, but also, as it made vigorous and strong the beginning of that vertue, which had possible sat down wearied with small acquisitions, had it not been supported by a generous passion: a truth that has found more excellent experiments, then what are met with in foolish Romances. And whilst thus the excesses, and the indifference had done the world equal prejudices, what could be

be more propitious to it, then the moderation and the middle way of Marriage? it removes on one hand what is violent, furious and Rapacious, and overcomes on the other a degenerate indifference and sloath: and as it is not our inclinations but their irregularity that makes our Crime, so every thing is happy in its moderation: thus the assistances of fire to the occasions of life are very happy and necessary, it is only dreadfull when it growes unruly; we saile with pleasure on that Ocean, and trace its yeilding bosome with remotest wealth,

wealth, from which yet we fear
 an inundation. So Love pre-
 served in happy bounds by the
 institutions of Marriage ; its
 excellencies and advantages
 remain to the world, its chil-
 dith and troublesome qualities
 are cut off by Lawes: its made
 tame and gentle, which would
 else have devoured the fairest
 concernments of the Universe:
 should the world be without the
 society of this govern'd Passi-
 on, it might want a heate to vi-
 gourate, and render servicea-
 ble all its parts, which must
 else have submitted to dull lan-
 guishments, nothing then ap-
 pears more just then Marri-
 age,

age, since the love it cuts off and regulates, the world could not have borne; and the love it manages it cannot spare, without parting with the foundation of its best **A**ffairs: neither have any appeared dissatisfied with this conduct, but only the **B**ravo's, and **F**uriolo's of **A**ges, who think that the satisfying of an ungovern'd appetite, is more important, than the being kind and obliging to common nature; whilst only such politiques as their own, can make it be thought expedient to destroy the good of the whole, for the unreasonable satisfaction of some in particular

ticular. The highest wisdom
 took the prospect of all the
 Species, and established what
 was the benefit and the good of
 all; and not what might please
 the humour of some individu-
 als, who starting up in particu-
 lar Generations, and making
 a noise amongst those with
 whom they lived, could yet
 with no Justice, reproach the
 prudence that governed their
 Fathers; with which they are
 displeased, through the capri-
 ciousness of their own folly, and
 not the defect of the precept;
 which like Beds and Couches,
 are not to be accused, because
 they are uneasy to the Sick and
 distem-

distempered. We have found how prejudicial the small Experiment they have made of their new way, has been to the world; they have practised on it but a little while, but yet, like bold Empericks, they have so altered and spoild its constitution, that a long course of better experiments will hardly recover it; they have boasted of their Skill and Dexterity, but those inconveniences that they pretended suddenly to remove, they have opened into an impetuous torrent of peccant Humours; and had not former times who submitted to the interests of Mar-

C

riage,

riage, done more then they for the prosperity and good of the world, it had possible known scantier Allowances of health and tranquility: had the Genius of the Univers been fashioned by them, we might hardly have seen produced all those monuments of Vertue, Glory and Nobleness, which now are extant in those who are like to do nothing but satisfy their humour and appetite, and quarrel with those things they cannot minde: and the world ought to look upon them as no other, but such who in Countries lying low, let in the Sea upon them, to drown all

all the possessions of greatest Value; thinking such an extravagancy sufficiently recompenced, by having thereby an opportunity, to row the small Pinaces off their fancyes, trimmed with the Flag and Saile of their Poetry, over the buried magnificencies and honours of their Fathers.

Marriage laid the foundation, and first principle of civil Society; it was a Yoake for which the neck of innocence was not too soft and delicate; and a condition governed by unerring vertue, had yet need of these allotments, as to the advantages and improvements

of Society. And that which
 Marriage appropriated; was
 the first proclaiming of Mine
 and Thine; the Earth was
 common; and the enjoyments
 of it had an undistinguished
 right; whilst the concern-
 ments of the Bed were sacred
 and separate; and even in
 those nations, the most ruined
 and decayed, there are yet
 the remaines of this old insti-
 tution, which they themselves
 in jealousies, and desire to
 possess alone the fancyed ob-
 jects; and in all things else
 we can allow a frager, but
 in the interests of our Love
 conquest, rapine, and vio-
 lence

tence divided the portions of
 the Earth, but nature sepa-
 rated Marriage, against
 which it is the highest crime to
 complain of. No just annihi-
 lation, and of such equal al-
 lowances. That condition
 through the Ages it has tra-
 velled amidst such met with those
 rude manners and unkindnesses,
 as have made it suffer, and lost
 its respect, but if mankind
 would reassume that obsequi-
 ousness and observance which
 it ought to receive, we should
 find it again restored to all its
 former renown and veneration:
 that Institution, like
 Power, owes its glory to the

respect is paid it, whilst every
 thing that is neglected, is by
 that scorn rendered cheap and
 contemptible ; and any dis-
 esteem which Marriage lyes
 under, is not from the incon-
 veniencies that are found in
 it ; but only arises from the
 incivility of those times that
 forbear to respect it : if some
 Persons would studdy to do
 it Justice, we should find it
 again with the same votaryes
 about it, and not like dethron'd
 Monarchs, without its state
 and unattended. Some not
 generous as they ought, have
 put affronts upon Marriage,
 and a desire of their reputa-
 tions,

tions, have produced in others the fellowship of their crime; scrupling not at all to share in their Vices, so they might but participate of their glory: these are the Factions bandying against Marriage, who loseth the memory of their Fathers, that minded nobler things, can think of nothing better than the most disingenuous and dishonourable diversions. But I believe, I have said enough to vindicate the justness of Marriage; and there is that in every mans mind that will assist the endeavour.

As the principle which

continues nature, is of all things the most excellent and generous, so that which makes the continuance happy and advantagious, must not be contemptible: the seeds of being in other Creatures are as powerfull, as *Lyons* and *Tygers*, who leave their young to inherit their quitted beings, and the Desarts where they govern'd: The *Stag* communicates to his Off-spring, his swiftness, and a long life, but the Rational beings, are not only continued in their kind, but in their use and glory by the disciplin of Marriage: and it has not only perpetuated Generations,

and

and the variety of Ages, but
 conveyed along with success on
 the pleasures and the interests
 of it; it has not only laid the
 foundations of vast and puissant
 Empires, of lesser Signories
 and States; but rendered
 them usefull, civil, and
 excellent; it has given births
 to successfull and flourishing
 Arts; and not only fixed
 their constellations, but al-
 so pointed the circles where
 they shed their Influence, it
 has managed the high-Mettle,
 and fierceness of Witt, and
 made that easy to be governed,
 which might else have proved
 too unruly for them that used

itid In this we owe the origi-
 nal and excellency of Learn-
 ing, which has taught wisdom
 and civility to barbarous Na-
 tions; whose wilder influence,
 like that of Comets, had
 pointed nothing but ruine and
 disorders to the world, had it
 not rose in the circles of Mar-
 riage. He was once rocked
 in the Cradle, whose Philo-
 sophy and Science, after tra-
 velling to the confines of night
 and day, who rising in the
 sphere of Marriage, shed a
 quiet influence, over all that
 Land and Water knew. An
 indulgent Mother in her lap,
 first bound the tender head of

a famous Conquerour; who
 after wore the Laurels of so
 many victoryes, conveying
 with her milk and her careesses,
 a sweetnes that charmed the
 fury of his blood. Whilst
 Ambition, Warr, and Dis-
 tempers still emptyed the world,
 Marriage supplied it with
 other inhabitants, who took
 up, through the track of the
 same Education, the affairs
 and interests of their Fathers.
 VVhen by the death of some
 excellent Person, mankind
 have been deprived of great
 advantages and blessings, some
 others have rose up, and equal'd
 if not excell'd the vertue of
their

their Fathers. When Coun-
 tries have been widdowed and
 drooped over the loss of an
 indulgent Prince, they have
 had restored in a successor,
 the freshness of their wither'd
 joyes: and the designs of a
 vast Empire, left in an imper-
 fect draught, has been fin-
 ished by the succeeding
 hand with all the beauties and
 embellishments of Power.
 An increasing Nation, liv-
 ing too straight in narrow
 Regions, have under the con-
 duct of some Hero, sought
 more commodious places,
 whose generous designs have
 been so far perfected by his
 suc-

successours, as to become one
 of the fairest Empires of the
 world: and it has been found,
 that mingling Nations, whose
 Lines have been perplexed
 with other communions, have
 never done any thing where-
 by to be renowned: those
 places that have suffered incur-
 sions, where they have not
 bravely distinguished and
 united their own blood, have
 presently lost the fence and
 name of glory; which sa-
 cred title of blood, has been the
 great motive to the most He-
 roick attachments; how
 did the world behold and ad-
 mire an invincible obstina-

cy in the resolutions of the
Capuan because he could
 not betray the glory of a Ro-
 man: the respect and digni-
 ty of blood, is preserved no
 where but in the Channels of
 Marriage; and the Child
 only reveres the vertue of a
 just Parent. The sence of
 glory, not bounded in those
 sacred Spheares, had wan-
 dered till it had spent its in-
 fluence, and fallen thro' upon
 the Earth. Marriage holds
 the *Idea* nearer, and inbellisht
 with that sence which makes
 it sacred; Emulation sees
 it a far off, and viewes it on-
 ly with indifference, to which
 the

the inclination is but fortuitous and uncertain; but we carry it in our bosome, when we have received it from our Fathers.

He that looks upon the four great Empires of the World, will find that they flourished then with greatest bravery, when they were most vertuous, and that their greatness declined with their Morals: the *Assyrian* Empire was succeeded by the *Persian*; which by its strange Luxuries and Effeminacies, became so easy a Prey to the armes of *Alexander*, and by effeminate Ages, are no where meant the

the Uxorious, for they were
 ever manly and gallant, but
 those that gave themselves up
 to the dishonours of that Sex,
 when the *Persian* Empire was
 destroyed, he that put out its
 light, was too careless of pre-
 serving his own; whose suc-
 cesses and a bold spirit, being
 all that was remarkable in
 him, found not in his Riot
 and his Wantonness, the lei-
 sure to think of continuing
 what he had acquired; by
 which means that Power, be-
 ing left without an Heir, but
 what was suspicious, and not
 respected by himself, the
 violence of its after Admin-
 istrators,

nistrators, soon laid it low;
 who sharing of their Masters
 temper, as they did of his
 Successes, were only the
 pursuers of a mad glory; few
 of them leaving a name in
 Power, who had yet the pos-
 sibility to have done so much
 to acquire it. After this
 rose the *Roman*, the best built,
 and supported, and of the
 largest extent: spreading the
 wings of its dreadfull *Eagle*
 over the face of the whole
 Earth, being the noblest and
 most exact draught of Power,
 that the memory of Man has
 known: its vertue was the
 most usefull and generous;
 mil its

its Arts the most pleasing and excellent, and its Spirit the most persevering and great, that any times have shown, that were barely Vertuous, with its religious Respect amongst other things, to Marriage, and by the gravity of its Morals, it stood in a long succession, at once the terror and the delight of the world: all Nations, either courting its friendship, or trembling at its Armes, but when it was governed by such Princes as Nero, and Caligula, it yielded to those Vices from which it could never recover it self; but by
little

little and little declined, till that greatness on which the world had waited, and which it had served, laid it self down ingloriously in the languishing arms of *Austria*; where it remains, with none of its mighty Qualities about it; and though in the times of *Silla*, and *Cesar*, it suffered much by Ambition, yet it had then still a remedy to equal the disease; and whilst its peace was boldly assaulted by one Hero, it was as bravely defended by another: by which is easily raised a confutation of their vain opinion, who maintain softness and effeminacy
 II to

to be the great security of
 a Nations Peace, since no-
 thing can more discourage
 the attempts of the most skill-
 full vertue, against the peace
 of Kingdomes, then the Re-
 flexions which it makes upon
 the vigour of those Military
 qualities. So Alexander be-
 paid of the Perses, whilst the
 Indian lived, neither has
 any Nation assisted an He-
 roick perfection to its own loss,
 since though some of it may be
 employed ungracefully a-
 gainst it, yet it alwaies at the
 same time receives the effects
 of the others acknowledge-
 ment, which has attended us

If we should quit this great
 Ocean, we have traced, and
 take a view of all the lesser
 Currents of dominion; that
 have run through every Age,
 we shall find that Marriage
 was the Fountain from whence
 flowed that Vertue, which
 was assisting and propitious to
 them. But we will leave that
 stream, and open a prospect
 into the affairs of Learning;
 which as it has role in times
 serious and modest, so it did
 only receive respect and in-
 couragement from those ages:
 Philosophers governed Re-
 publiques in Greece, but they
 lost not only their reputation,
 but

but their blood in the offemi-
 nate dayes of *Nero*. Sciences
 never took birth but in grave
 and prudent times, whilst the
 scurrilous and wanton wit,
 was ever esteemed in idle
 Ages. In those dayes, Poe-
 try and the Joofenis of the
 Theater, the debauches, and
 the excrements of Wit, were
 only valued and admired; and
 they received Elogies and
 Laurels, who invented new
 wayes of Debauchment, or
 that could expresse themselves
 with the greatest smartness
 on Letchery and Extrava-
 gance: VVit and Beauty,
 have ever shared one Fate in
 the

the world ; when they are happily espoused to noble and illustrious Subjects ; or else given up to prostitution and dishonour ; neither have the lustfull Ages of the world dealt more barbarously with that blushing Sex, then with this virgin quality : and in how many productions transmitted from several times, shall we see the most excellent and vigorous fancies, prostituted to the most base and detested Subjects, which infelicity they received from those times in which they lived, and they might have been more happy, had

had they conversed with nobler Themes. Thus the reputation of Learning, and excellent Arts have felt and declined for want of Estimation; whilst all applied themselves to those things that procured the same applause, nothing is since the corruption of nature so pernicious and extravagant as VVit; neither has anything done the world greater mischief then that quality: it has put Nations into flames, fill'd with wounds; the bosome of the Church; whether it has presided in Camps; managed designs in Courts; or hatch-
ed

ed errors in low-rooft-*Cloysters*:
 in all [^] which places, the
 world has felt the smart of its
 cruelty: it has sometimes ru-
 in'd by boisterous and bloody
 actions; at others by softness
 and flatteries: it has wound
 it self into all Interests and
 Affairs; and when it is not
 permitted to insult, to brave
 it, and to manage important
 concerns; it conceales
 it self, by a peculiar subtilty
 and bashfulness, from whence
 unsuspected it ruins and de-
 vours: but this quality,
 thus pernicious and unruly,
 becomes much more sober and
 usefull in the temperaments

D

of

of Marriage. And that which they call the dulling of the fancy, and the checking of the happy vigour, is but a calheiring of that madness, which all Ages have been bound to curse. V Vhen the world was busied in matrimoniall Concernments, Learning opened it self in all the flourishes of a happy Knowledge; spreading to Heaven its Branches, and through Earth its Roots: the easy and effeminate V Vit, was put out of countenance by the gravity of that appearance, and submitted willingly to more excellent affairs, to gain esteem
and

and reputation. Some men might have the fame of greater Learning, but the Oracle pronounced *Socrates* the wisest Man of Greece. And to come nearer our times, where shall we find in any ages, so much sottishness and a dark ignorance, as in those, that first allowed the solitary lives of Priests, in which they gave a Proove not of their continence, but their vices. Those daring men, who with their inhumane Decrees, controlled the influences of Nature; and could at their pleasure stem the Rapid Humidity: which dull Subjects of their

bold experiments, they deposited in *Cloysters*, those *Stoves* (too many of them) of wretched Lusts; which by the practices of beastly Crimes, appeared no other then the *Faques* of the world. In those Ages the Sun of Learning suddenly clapt in, and that duller day appeared little better then a night of knowing nothing; whilst the world seemed led by idle Phantasmes and foolish Illusions; preferring dreames full of unprofitable *Ænigma's*, before the sentiments of waking ages. Those who were not serious were mad and unruly, those whose interests

interests it was to appear solemn, were dull and blockish; as it with the opinion, they had lost the learning of their Ancestours; and justly were those times infatuated, that gave so great a wound to the noblest affairs of Nature: neither could so bold an injunction have dared to appear in times less dark and sooty. So that Learning seems only to have loved the society of Uxorious and modest ages, and to have received increase and favour from them.

Marriage was moreover a model of the after governments of the V World: the dominion

of a Parent in his Family, is a true representation of the government of a just Prince, who is the father of his Country: men in this mirrour might have seen the agreableness of Power and Empire; and with better inclinations might become obedient to an universal head, whilst they plainly could perceive the advantages of order and subjection in particular Families. Had there been no distinction in Societies, in which by the respect and obedience paid to some Persons, the advantages of Rule might be approved, men would never have been willing

willing to have parted with the
 most extravagant parts of their
 Liberty, but all desires of
 Sovereignty would have been
 opposed as Injustice and Ty-
 ranny; but by Marriage, and
 the issue of the Bed, men had
 within themselves a Lord-
 ship and Dominion, and the
 advantages of that evidently
 appearing, the intention of
 some excellent Person, and
 his desires to protect Coun-
 tries and Provinces, and to
 be their universal Head and
 Parent, was not received with
 that aversion, as they must have
 been, had they wanted those
 advantagious Presidents: and

I know not how to believe, that all the Dominions of the Earth were founded in absolute Tyranny: and that they had at first no design of the good of Nations, which was accidentall, and found necessary for the security and quiet of Power; since it is impossible for any Country to enjoy Peace, Riches, or Profit, without the superiority of some or other. Marriage drew the Idea of Power, and imbellished it with those advantages that made it more pleasant to mankind, then had it been the rough draught of command, laid only in black
and

and bloody Colours : with what abhorrance had they took the prospect of Dominion, if they had only seen it design'd by ambition, with all the furies of Death and Battles ; with a fullen and imperious look, having nothing about it propitious and affable, but ravenous and injurious : but in the frame of Wedlock, it appears friendly and obliging, reconciling the thoughts of subjection, whilst it flourishes in all the sweetness of security and profit. It represents to us, that the thoughtfulness and the cares of Rule, are not in themselves

so excellent as the repose and
 pleasures of obedience, and
 he which enjoys his benefits
 secured to him, has rather what
 he should acknowledge with
 gratitude, than emulate in
 the industry and cares of his
 Governour; who though he
 wears more splendid Titles;
 yet his watchings and his
 thoughtfulness, cover with
 paleness the tempting beau-
 ties of the other; none would
 desire to rule, that sees the
 Luxuries of Power cut off
 by Lawes, and presided over
 by the waking designs for the
 common good: and like the
 Children of a Family, they
 willingly

willingly allow the Parent his command, whilst they receive a maintenance and protection. In short, it affords to mankind a convincing Proove, that command and subjection are dispositions that may dwell together with great friendliness and advantage; and that the world could not tell how to be without their mingling Interests; except not only all respect and decorum was thrown out of it, but also, every thing of profit and repose, and the thirst of all command took place.

Neither has Marriage been less propitious to Kingdoms
in

in particular, then to the whole world in General. Whilst it brought in the grand foundation of their peace and quiet. For this (yet with no injury) fixes a man to a settlement, and a contented condition of living, who if he should obey the force of no other arguments, yet the just consideration of his Family and Relations. would dispose him to peace and subjection: many men are sometimes tempted to be the instruments of fatall disorders to a Nation; whilst they have nothing to suffer but themselves in the calamities

mities of ill success: few are so
 brutish, as to have no regard to
 the wellfare of those they love;
 who would by Treason cut
 from his Children a brave Es-
 tate, and leave them nothing
 but Poverty and the reproa-
 ches of his Crime to inherit:
 and we find that those who have
 yet been misled to these actions,
 did dye with no thoughts more
 tender about them, then what
 were took from the calami-
 ties of their Children; and
 though some have broke
 through all these considerations
 and have neglected their dear-
 est interests, yet that dos not
 disprove the force they usual-
 ly

ly have upon our minds : 'tis providing for those that come after us, which makes us industrious, and sometimes peaceable and veruous too ; what man would not be shook, and feel some remorse in his designs and projects of Ruine, that has a loving Wife leaning on his bosome, and innocent Children hanging about his knees ; but he that lives alone, what design soever he drives at, he receives none of these Regrets and Remorses, but setting all things in himself, cries, let the world stand and fall with me, and we have good reason to believe, that
the

the unmarried lives of the
 Romish Priests, have been
 the causes of great calamities
 and disorders in Kingdoms,
 who are entertain'd in all Cal-
 bals of that nature; like the
 Jews in the Turkish Councils,
 for the peculiar aversion which
 they bear to the tranquility of
 Nations. Men who have
 too much leisure, and too lit-
 tle dependance on a common
 interest, will freely play a-
 way their own share in any
 Kingdome, by its ruine, whilst
 there are so many Cloysters in
 other places to protect and re-
 ceive them: which appear the
 black *Treasurer* of fatal Events
 of govt their

their *Guardians* and *Superiors* flinging about those kindled fire-Brands, to inflame the world, who if they had a Family, and an interest settled to mind, would with less facility be disposed to act the Papall designs ; and would take a great deal less pleasure in the disorders of Christendom. Marriage makes men look upon the peace and prosperity of the world with more concernment and delight, than those do who care only for themselves and their present satisfaction : Nay, there is a peculiar wandering humour, and a disposition of unrest in the single

single life; and whilst the thoughts have no certain aime to which to direct them, they are ever feeting and unconstant: and the world from shaded *Cloysters*, has seen emitted the most unquiet and restless Principles, whilst men dwelling in a perpetuall tranquillity themselves, knew not how else to imploy their leisure, curled from above, as lazy and unworthy, but by intangling and perplexing the affairs of the Earth: from these disguised men, have Empires felt Convulsions and dolefull Changes, which like fire disguised in Snow, insensible

insensibly destroyed their peace; whilst the veneration of their dissembled Sanctity protected them from the suspicion of such devouring Principles. Marriage made men intent on the business of a Family, and endeavour to themselves that tranquility and repose which a just Government affords them; because they may by those advantages enjoy the contentments and the interests of their families. But the single life, is usually inclined to innovations and shiftings of Power; because that variety whilst it pleases, it also injures none of those concerns

cernments bound up in a single
 Person: they may defend them-
 selves from the wound aimed
 at a solitary breast, who could
 not so well protect the bosome
 of many; which under the
 conduct of a just care, and
 affection, would partake of
 an equal tenderness. Whilst
 War displays its bloody En-
 signes to trembling Regions,
 whilst it covers with the Me-
 naces of many deaths the bo-
 some of a Nation, what tra-
 gique Scenes are presented to
 the tender and affectionate,
 who whilst they are immortal
 in their own resolutions, yet
 dye often for their relations in
 cruel

cruel apprehensions ; and dread the roling Torrent, as bringing so unusual & so unkind a fate, in the losing of more lives then one ; whilst they endure a death, must be survived by fence. And for the other advantages of Power, which are union of mindes the Uxorious man opposes errors with the greatest force, & extravagancies (those blinding and soft destroyers of Nations) with a passionate industry, because though he may himself withstand the assault, yet he fears their prevalency on those he loves ; those cruel opinions, that have

have set Nations on flames,
and those *Cyrcan* vices that
have charmed and devoured,
have been by none so resolute-
ly opposed, as by him who pro-
tects a Family from all their as-
saults.

It afforded moreover to
mankind, the honour and de-
light of a hopefull Issue: no-
thing was esteemed of old,
more an honour then many
Children, the issue of a law-
full Bed: the promising youth
of a Child, returns a reputa-
tion to the Father; and ma-
ny men had been forgotten in
the Histories of Ages, had
they not been the Parents of
Chil-

Children, who were famous; every Parent receives an honour from the Vertues, and the celebrated qualities of his offspring; tis a reputation to have been the root that bare those Flowers, whose fairness and sweetness were pleasant to the whole World: and if one Age like an unkind spring has but weakly assisted the births of a Family, possible the next, has recompenced the defect by a double propitiousness; causing that Race to be renown'd in the following Generations, that was not valued in the former, whilst all those Honours and Applauses, are not

not bestowed without a just Reflexion on the Parent that bare them: neither is the delight any thing inferior, if the excellent endowments of a Stranger are pleasing to us, (as they doubtless are to every ingenious mind) what must be the accomplishments of them, whom we have brought into the world our selves? to be the Parents of those that may prove successfull instruments for the good of Mankind, are blessings and contentments, not to be equalled by little things: and the actions of many men that have lived in the world, would have none of the Reputation they

they have yet acquired, if it had not been for the consideration of their Families : next to those interests which we owe above, nothing is so noble, so good, and so commendable, as to prosecute in wayes of Justice and Honour, the interests of our Family : in the pursuit of which has also been raised, all or most of the glorious Triumphs of virtue, Courage and Industry that the world has known ; at least they have on that account received a more excellent and valued name than any other Interests could have given them ; and who only for the

the flashes of a short fame,
 would with the hazzard of his
 own life, have alter'd the go-
 vernment of Kingdomes, have
 added remote as well as neigh-
 bouring Provinces to the tri-
 bute of his **Throne**; who would
 have exposed himself to the
 various accidents of the Deep,
 and have sought unknown
Treasures in Countries bar-
 barous unconquered and un-
 traversed, if he had not hoped
 to have left them as the Pa-
 trimony of his Family? and
 thus on Death-beds, have
 great, as well as serious men,
 left such excellent instructi-
 ons to their Children of kee-

ing up the honour and reputation of their Names, as if the interest they should take in it remain'd beyond the Grave: *Agrippina* doted so much on the Imperial dignity of her Son *Nero*, as to cry out, *Occidat modo imperet* : let Me Dye so He may Reign. Neither have those who by rashness and ambition, fell into calamity, received more mournful apprehensions, then what they took from a reflexion on their Families. And nothing is more remarkable, then that Tragedy, which the wretched *Gamester* acted on himself ; to which he was transported by the torment

torment of such Reflexions.
 Who sees not with an agree-
 able pleasure, his name spread
 and flourish in a virtuous
 off-spring, erected there
 by living Monuments to serve
 the immortality of Ages,
 whilst others have vainly con-
 trived it, in actions of their
 valour; or in magnificent
 Graves: the first slumber-
 ing in the embellishments of
 History, where it is only ad-
 mired; the other is sometimes
 resorted to by the curious
 Wanderer, who observes the
 workmanship without ap-
 pearing concern'd for the
 shaded Ashes: the noble

Greek, who wanting Issue,
 was forced to adopt his
 Victories, to perpetuate
 his Name, knew well en-
 ough, that they were a bar-
 ren and distressed off-spring,
 and which must be forced to
 live on the benevolence of
 Pedants, and the charity of
 Ages: whilst a Son might
 have maintained through suc-
 cession, that glory in the Sun-
 shine of generous actions,
 which was forced to retire to a
 shade. Neither do they
 urge any thing important,
 who object the Mis-carriage
 of some mens Issue, since that
 is a precaution not at all al-
 lowed

lowed in the concernments of the world : and never to attempt for fear of a miscarriage, is a distrust only prevalent with the ignoble : if at any time the glory of a Race may be under a cloud for one Generation, it may yet in the next shine out with a charming lustre and brightness. That Parent is just and wise, who leaves the Principle, and Providence to fashion the increase ; and he takes the conduct from a better hand, who is unreasonably fearful of the Events to come : neither would any truly studious of the inter-

E 3 ests

ests of Nature, and the advantages of an off-spring, impede both, by such vain fears. Who neglects the rich Voyages of the *Indias*, because some have suffered Ship-wracks? neither do any decline to reap Laurels in the Field, because they grow with Cypress. To be guided by the present just and pleasing inclination, and to leave the success to the conduct above us, is the only management can give contentment & pleasure to mortal men. Children are the most excellent way of perswading our memory, and to afford

us the delight of seeing our selves preserved from a sudden forgetfull, and we may well submit to the satisfaction of such thoughts, without troubling our selves with future miscarriages.

Marriage does also perpetuate the memory and dignity of vertue. It is true it somtimes happens that a Son is not only unlike his Father, but so different, as to be a shame and reproach to his memory ; but yet usually, the great qualities of the Parent live in the Children, having the advantages of their examples and instructi-

ons; and at least, if their vertue is much the weaker, yet supported by the Fathers memory, it becomes strangely usefull beloved and respected in the world: the Children of some Men, who have been the Authors of great benefits and good offices to Kingdomes, have served many happy occasions in the world, who yet have had no great Merit of their own to boast off: nothing is so much idolized, nor respected, by the generality of People as a mighty Name; and a vertue possible in its self much the greater, found in a Person

son not famous, cannot yet do those things which the bare reputation of some others is able to perform : In the Civil Wars of *France*, the authority of a Prince of the Blood, could easily hush those commotions, & produce that obedience to Discipline, which all the courage, arts and persuasions of inferior Captains could never do. He that erects triumphs of Glory and Honour, does not only inshrine himself where he is adored, but sets his Posterity in a sacred place : and with his only Name, appeases the mutinyes of Armies, pre-

sides in Courts, and
 keeps the affairs of the
 world in order. How had
 the world suffered, if a Per-
 son, who by many generous
 actions became the darling
 of Mankind, neglecting to
 transmit a Copy, from so be-
 loved & glorious an Original,
 had set at once, in his Being,
 & his Race. In ancient Wars,
 Infants have been carryed to
 incourage Battles, thereby,
 with their unactive blood
 strangely animateing the veins
 of others. And it has more-
 over, been found to work
 much upon the disposition
 of humane nature, a kind of
 gallant

gallant affection, for the memory of some glorious Person, left to the guidance of a tender hand : such *Efforts* served the Race of the *African*, and the *Gothick Hero* : procuring to the world this, believe and benefit together, that he which leaves his virtue an *Orphan*, may have erected for it, the Hospitals of stately Tombs, and the Panegyricks of History ; but he that would have it lasting and usefull, as well as admired must leave it to his Issue, where in the active Torrent of generous performances, it may accumulate, the

the same glory and esteem it found in the dayes of an *Ancestour*, to be only admired is a barren advantage, to be useful and to be beloved, is what the truly noble rather covet : which is found in the vertues and good offices of our Race.

Marriage did also inlarge the Sphear, and establish occasions of practical Vertue. He that is marryed has more compass, and a larger field of Action: he usually procures more benefits to the world, at least more substantial and better grounded ; he that is alone lives to this age, but he that is marryed (by the

the force of embraces causes) lives to those Generations which stand next, the worlds last Calenture and burning fit. *Pompey* did not only fight himself for the Liberty of *Rome*, till he was its greatest and mighty Sacrifice, but left also those gallant Sons, who bravely endeavoured to revive it when faint and dying. The practical vertues that belong to this life, as they are more, so they are more considerable in the married State; Speculation how ever pleasing to some tempers, yet if it be not altogether Divine, is a thing

thing of little advantage;
 especially to the world, and
 that is the measure of every
 excellent quality, the be-
 nefit of the generall world:
 infinite thinking, that de-
 signs no other advantage
 but the private satisfaction
 of him that is busied in it,
 is but an ingenious sort of
 idleness; and moreover,
 the mischief the world has
 received by those strange o-
 pinions, invented by men
 who enjoyed a perpetual
 Vacation from affairs, re-
 main too great a reproach
 of idle Speculation: the
 thoughts of men are perpetu-
 ally

ally working, and wanting the entertainments of good and useful objects, pursue pleasant and agreeable Ideas, that were never yet alter'd by action; and which are equally unprofitable to themselves and others. But he that has the interests of a Family, to mind, and more substantial concerns than a name, which like the *Camellion*, lives on Air, bounds with those happy limits the extravagancies of his fancy. And the things he has to manage, consist in most particulars of the best virtue, or the most practi-
call

call advantages that are found in humane Society. How many glorious actions, and instances of bravery of mind, have took their Original from the calamities of a Parent, or the distresses of a Child; & without doubt, the world had wanted the greatest part of its illustrious Presidents of vertue, had not the affections and tenderneesses of these Relations, been the Motives and powerfull Inducements to them: many indeed, (but unjustly) cry out of Marriage, as a condition of care and perplexities, and celebrate single living,
 Had for

for its freedom and repose:
 but first, let us ask them,
 whoever found in a mortal
 State, that tranquillity they
 have pretended to admire:
 perplexities and troubles
 have as well invaded the
 shades of the most quiet Re-
 cesses as the affairs and acti-
 vities of Families: and who
 can shew us that condition
 of life under the Sun, that
 is even and undisturbed?
 If Marriage has cares it has no
 more then other conditions;
 Nay possibly they are more
 supportable in the gravity
 and charm of those concern-
 ments, then where they assault

mad and wild humour, weary of every thing. But then let us tell them, moreover, that it has advantages, blessings, and societies that they have not attained: if they can shew us the life of some rude Philosopher, who in his retirements from the World, boasted of quiet and repose, (though that has appeared not Gallantry, but Sullenness in him) we can shew them many examples of glorious men, living not only contentedly, but admired and beloved in the ties of Matrimony, spreading their useful qualities over the Universe;

Universe ; whilst the *Stoick* has permitted his vertue to droop and wither, in the shade of his own humour : besides difficult and hard acquisitions are the triumphs of vertue, that mind shines with no Lustre at all, which has not been brightened with difficult affairs, owing (as the Body) its vigour and strength to motion and labour. Moreover, the triumph is the sweetest that is purchased with the most industry ; the ambitious looks on those acquisitions with contempt which are easily got, and loves the highest

est steps, because it is the hardest coming there. And such Motives have we received from above, to procure advantages to the world, that nothing relishes better to the mind; nor is received with greater esteem and applause, then difficult Services: the *Romans* ever loaded those with Triumphs, at their return home, and erected them Statues, who had served the Common-wealth in the greatest dangers and toyles: so that to speak ill of Marriage, only out of a humour of repose and sluggishness,

is to own the greatest reproach and scandall in the world. When they passed by the house of that great *Senator*, who retired from the gallant affairs of the Republicque, and spent his time in a dreaming idleness, they use to say, here *Vatia* lyes buryed: whom have all *Ages* allowed for *Heros*? whom have they *Deified* and serv'd with *Altars*? not the lazy and the speculative, not the boysterous and injurious, but those who applyed themselves to court humane Race with kindneses and benefits: and they have met with

with the most lavish Elo-
gies and Praises, who were
the most lavish of their Blood
and Abilities to oblige
the world. Now he that
acts with the multiplici-
ty of Instruments, is capa-
ble of effecting more, than he
that contrives one end; how
great soever the sufficiency
of one man may be, yet he
shines but with a solita-
ry Vertue, without the
irradiations of an off-
spring: Neither has the
Coate of Nobleness been
perfectly blazon'd, but
with our Issue.

— — — — — : An

Here ends the Reflections

Here begins the Book
of Discipline

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An excellent person may do much for the world with his own sufficiency, but he doubly obliges it, who in a Seminary of Heroes, is continually propitious to it; & then as for the particular Exercises of virtue in that condition, we shall find them no where to have such powerful Motives: For whom was reserved the Conquest of *Latium*, and the foundations of an Empire, which *Phoenix* like, rose richer from the Ashes of *Ilium*, but for that *Æneas*, who with so exemplary a Piety, bore his Father through the Flames; by which he became more Renown'd, than *Hector* that defended, and

F *Acbilles*

Achilles that ^{and} assisted *Troy*.
Rome once owed its being
 and its safety, to the autho-
 rity and persuasions of a
 Mother, and that *Hero* recei-
 ved from his duty a tempera-
 ment of mind, hard to be
 found in successes, and at the
 head of Armies: Neither
 could the present Conquest
 and Revenge, have so much
 served the glory of *Coriola-
 nus*, as that famous Act of his
 duty; nothing is so noble
 as the pity which presides
 on the power to ruine, and
Rome had doubtless wanted
 its effects, had it not been in-
 spired by a revered Elo-
 quence.

quened. The Barbarian
 thought a non death unwel-
 come; but accompanied with
 the assassination of his Bro-
 ther, and he could support
 without regret the company
 of his own fate, who would
 willingly have fled from that
 of his Relation. If the
 Poets have not flamed artifi-
 cially the Scene of the gene-
 rous Corinthian, she owed all
 those charming Actions they
 have celebrated, to the Idea's
 of her duty; neither was her
 Rival defective in the beauty
 and life of those performan-
 ces, but only by the want
 of the ascendant. And there

are infinite other Instances in the occurrences of Ages that acknowledge particular Obligations to the Matrimonial Relations.

It did moreover assist Mankind with a mind vigorous, and constant in its Circles. Virtue loses its lustre and strength, when it is obliged to wander in various entertainments; Marriage gives the thoughts a Home, and an Employment, that would else be traversing the ends of the Earth. Neither shall we find any men of a more manly Gallantry, nor a nobleness all of a piece, as amongst those

those who have been happy in this Relation, and great Lovers of the Interests of it : Some men may have exceeded in politick Arts, and in the Stratagems of Conquest ; but I very much question, whether ever any Age (in the Heathen world) brought forth any thing more excellent or more beloved, then the virtue of *Pompey*, and *Brutus* ; men not only Religiously prizing the Married state, but such as were blessed with the Society of those women, that for the returns of love and kindness were famous in every Generation.

We choose Friendship, as a Field for virtue to reap advantages in, and none but retired and treacherous Natures will be without the blessings of that; but beyond all question, that Friendship is the noblest, bound in the surest Ligaments, and penetrates more the recesses of the Heart, than any took up on other Scores: Some are pleased to cry down that Sex, as foolish and unfit for the conversation of men; but they seem in that too much to overvalue themselves, and to set strange prizes

prizes on their own worth :
 what if there are not found
 women, whose heads are
 filled with the crabbed no-
 tions of Philosophy , who
 have no great insight into
 insignificant and unsociable
 Arts , the knowledge of
 these things could constitute
 nothing but barren and ridi-
 culous friendships; that which
 is more generous, more plea-
 sant and useful, is as well to
 be found in that Sex , as in
 our own ; who that is wise,
 expects in this Relation, a
 jumping of Knowledge and
 Capacities, or an agreement
 with all our Chimera's and

Punctilio's, is she unfit for that society, who cannot chop Logick with the Scholar ? that cannot please the Historian with giving him an account of the Original of Empires where the Sun rises, nor the Affairs of Kingdoms, where the Sun goes down, or that cannot name him the Fields where have been fought famous Battels, nor tell those Conquerors, that there swept into their Lap, the mighty stakes of the worlds Monarchy ; or that though she can love as well as *Portia* and *Cornelia* ; yet they cannot recount him the particular

particular Gallantries of those Roman Ladies, they must surely make a very fantastick Standard, who measure the fitness of that Relation by such an odd agreeableness: Humane Race is to be supported and rendered happy by a substantial virtue, and not by little Punctilios and affectations; It has been such Whimsies that have lost the excellent affairs of the world, and men placing their contentments in such idle likenesses, have neglected, to pursue what were the most, useful concernements of humane Life. Nature

has set out the measure by which that Sex is found fit for our Society, which consists of something more important than the pleasing of our vain humours, the Interests of the world: were at first common, and men intended the good of the whole; but the envy, the capriciousness and fullness of after-times, made infinite inclosures, and men laid out all that stock on the little portions of their fancy, which should have been employed in the publick Banke of the Universe: And whilst they have pretended to refine hu-
mane



mane Society ; They have made its profitable Affairs evaporate into nothing ; neither have they left any thing of those grave and prudent Interests ; but some wild and thin Idea's, which they have in sport, hunted through the barren Regions of Philosophy, and along the fairy Traverses of Poetry.

Marriage has also appeared excellent for the education of Mankind, which was the next thing important to his being; without that, as his Affairs now stand, he had come into the world an Extravagant,

travagant, abhorring Laws,
 and the Regularities of
 Society, and his Reason rising
 at an Age after his mind
 had been rude and barbarous
 for want of discipline, it
 would not easily have been
 able to subdue the wildness
 of his youth : Nay, all its
 performances, had been but
 ill and imperfect Draughts,
 whilst it wanted compleated
 Images and Idea's to draw
 by, its natural propensities
 would have designed some-
 thing, but the world
 cou'd never have known
 what to have called it; but
 Marriage has been in all
 Ages

Ages the Repository of discipline, and excellent Ideas : in its School, they are not only taught but revered ; here is learned modesty, respect and subjection ; affectation and stubbornness are betimes cashiered, the fleeting and inconstant fancy directed to an aim, and kept steady by a peculiar authority ; Marriage is the Garden where the Flowers of Youth are preserved in their freshness and vigour, whereas the open discipline of the world is like the rudeness of a desert, where they grow wild,

and

and neglected, the sense of shame, and the fear of vice are preserved under this management, and influenced from this lower Sphere, whilst the general defection had made them difficult to be seen above; but besides, this condition has laid an Obligation on the Parent, to look after the Education of his Children; and if there had not been such an institution, in which, it was both our duty and our reputation too to look after our Issue, the Children of many had been neglected, and perished without a name, or any considerable acquirements; but

now

now, those persons who
 have strangely overcome, and
 worn out the impression of
 what they owe to God, and
 their own affections are yet
 so careful of their reputation,
 and the esteem of their
 Race, as to Educate their
 Children in those ways by
 which they may be capable
 of serving in the Common-
 wealth, and live with credit;
 had not Marriage been insti-
 tuted, when the lustful youth
 had satisfied his appetite, tis
 likely he would have aban-
 doned the wretched Mother
 with her Infant, to the in-
 clemencies of various sorrows,
 and the Children of the
 great

great and the Noble , had
 been Rocked in Cottages,
 and all their dayes followed
 the Plough ; but now there
 are sacred Channels cut, in
 which one stream of peculiar
 and distinguished Blood,
 perpetually runs from one
 Generation to another ; and
 we find, that even the most
 extravagant and voluptuous,
 are yet careful of that cur-
 rent ; using all the industry
 imaginable to make it noble
 and imbelished ; thinking it
 not enough to continue their
 greatness, but their virtues
 also ; They endeavour to
 fashion and to sweeten
 youth,

youth, that it may be grate-
 ful and accomplished, when
 it comes to be opened in the
 Affairs of the world, to
 this purpose are the severity
 of Chastisements, the variety
 of Instructions, and the re-
 presenting of differing Ex-
 amples; not only those that
 have rendered virtue fair and
 agreeable; but such also
 that shew a loathsomness, a
 degeneracy and abhorrency
 in vice, by such variety of
 Wayes, fashioning them in-
 to the habit of excellent
 qualities; which performan-
 ces have set so many accom-
 plished Persons into the
 world,

world, who if they had met with Parents less careful, they might have missed that esteem and veneration which Ages have paid them : It is true, that the force of a Genius sometimes supplies the defect of a Parent ; but where they both assist, are the most excellent pieces of humane perfection ; and though Nature often does much, yet we many times find, that those persons are to seek in the turns of Humane Affairs, and in the artful Traverses of Glory, who have not been very well furnished with great variety
 of

of Images and from hence has
 rose the defect that spoild
 the whole frame of an Her-
 roick ~~virtue~~, design'd by
 some ~~persons~~. In some
 Men we have observed a
 strange assiduity in the quest
 of glorious Achievements,
 whilst yet a diligent Remin-
 der, will see more of affection
 and earnestness, then a hand-
 some dexterity in that pur-
 suit. There is a sleight in
 all Humane Affairs; which
 though Nature may some-
 times happen on it, yet can
 never hit it with so much
 certainty and success as Art;
 and hence it is, that a great
 draught

draught of an Heroick virtue is fain to be taken from so many, because no one person appears furnisht with all those various Colours. Some men have excelled for the number and Art of their Conquests ; but the world has seen them subdued by a power from the Rostra. *Achilles's* Shield was after won by a virtue, different from that in which its owner excelled : the crafty *Italian*, with his single Conduct, wound about the bravery and vigour of the *French* Affairs, which perfection in any endowment, has arose from

from a happy Education, meeting with a good Genius, and where it willingly declines an accomplishment, it yet submits to the force of the discipline. So that to Marriage the world owes the Education of Mankind, and by consequence their fitness and usefulness to Humane Affairs, which is a great advantage, because the security of having our Issue well educated, is thereby established, and that care taken for the coming Generation, which our fathers had of ours; which is so important a reflection in the *Series* of succession.

Marriage

Marriage did moreover
 prevent the inconveniencies
 and extravagancies of a
 rambling Love; for what
 disorder and distraction had
 there been in the world, if
 an impetuous and lawless
 appetite had been subject to
 no Conduct; but that the
 fancy placing it self upon any
 Object, had presently trans-
 ported the owner to all man-
 ner of violent actions; No
 serve its mad desires; Cities
 had been consumed to Ashes;
 Houses left desolate, nor
 filled with groans, only for
 the ravishment of a beautiful
 Prey. The Affairs of the
 State

State had been neglected, or readily wounded for the acquirements of an idle Love, for such is the violence of that Passion, and such its extravagancies, when it is taught no moderation by Religion, and excellent Laws: The power of Conquest had been a sufficient Title to the Objects we had coveted, and we had felt no remorse, to have taken them from between the Arms where they had spent many years in endearments of Love: No Nation could have flourished, nor have been successful in its Affairs, if
a

a wanton Flame had thus consumed the manly temper and vigour of the Youth ; or if their passions had not transported them to such violent Actions , yet the gentlest concerns of those Flames, had made them incapable of serving the Commonwealth, and the Interests of Humane Society , and what with running to publick Houses of Lust, the contriving secret Cabals, and private assignations, the Animosities and Jealousies of Rivalship, the prodigality of amorous addresses, had took up all that

that time, and baffled all those advantages with which they should have serv'd their Generations: Whilst they had followed these designs, ill humour, restlessness of the thoughts, and inconsiderate Actions had been the necessary Companions to them; therefore there was great wisdom in that Law amongst the *Jews*, that none should live unmarried after such an Age: All wise and prudent Governments knew they should have little Order and less Industry, where the affairs of an idle passion possessed the Hearts

G

and

and Heads of their Subjects. Marriage more inclines the mind to serious and necessary business, then the wandring Lusts of Stews and Concubines ; and even in those Countries, where Poligamy and many Loves have been allowed, the serious and the wise are grown weary of their liberty , as producing those distractions , which unfit the mind for other things ; Neither would the disorders of that passion have only been injurious to the present times, but have extremely wronged posterity ; which we may perceive by the
the

the *Extravagants* of this Age, who live in a strange neglect of those that come after them : They care not what becomes of the next Generation, so they may Riot and live voluptuously in this ; they have received by succession a travelling Interest ; which they are to transmit downward, it being to journey through all the Ages of the world, but by their Extravagancies and excesses by their new wit, and their modish vices, they forget its affairs , they affront its gravity, they stop its progress, and it is like to be

known by after years with
 less esteem and veneration;
 and this is that Age which is
 like to be branded amongst
 all the Lustres of succession,
 as the most disingenu-
 ous that ever was, who
 have answered the Remon-
 strances of the worlds im-
 portant Interests with Ri-
 baldry, and a lascivious Song;
 they have affronted them by
 the most unworthy practices,
 & gave them to understand,
 that the divertisements of
Drolls and *Buffoons* were
 more valued by them,
 then the gravity and pru-
 dence of their Fathers:
 and

and these sottish incounters appear the consequences of the neglect of Marriage, by which the bosom of civil Affairs has received those wounds, which the dexterity and skill of coming Ages will not easily Cure : that neglect and lightness, that preposterousness and inadvertency in our concerns, as have brought upon the world so much disorder and inconvenience : No man makes it his business to be serious in any thing, but to railly with diversion and mockery, even his poverty and want, which are

all deplorable effects, of that injustice that the present times have done to Marriage. In fine, that condition has applied the minds of men to that industry and care, which as they have contributed to the peace and the repose of the universe; so they have produced those excellent things, that became pleasant and dear to humane Race; the productions that have been besides it, were rather for splendour than use, and a gay show, without the company of real profit: The world has been diverted with pleasant Idea's,
with

with a fair arrangement of amiable things ; but the performances of this condition , have exhibited what was useful and necessary. The wanton humour, and the airy fancy may be pleased by the solitary Hero's, but the uxorious have intended the good of mankind ; and if we diligently survey the Interest of the world, we shall find them fitted for the Society of the married life, and that they must receive a stop and a prejudice by the introducing of other concernments ; the constitution of them must

be changed, and a new habit
 introduced, before the world
 can look well under the pra-
 ctice of different opinions :
 How happily it has succeed-
 ed with these Experiments,
 what it has come to under
 the Discipline of such a pra-
 ctice, will sufficiently appear,
 by looking backward ; the
 Powers it has established ;
 the mingling Interest it has
 confirmed ; the mutual stock
 of benefits it has settled ; and
 the great tranquility of all
 things ; sufficiently prove,
 that nothing could have been
 more propitious to the
 world then that condition :
 Neither

Neither does it serve less effectually our particular Affairs ; if we look beyond the contentments of a present and a fading appetite to those which arise from a long succession, stretched with esteem and reputation : to live when we are dead and gone, in a happy issue, is much better, then only for some Moments to be renowned, to set in the Circle of Marriage, agreeable Objects always to entertain our affection and our thoughts, is much happier, then by the little Artifices of time, to be ever subject to delusi-

ons; who does not, that pretends to reason, take more pleasure in managing the Interests of a Family, and a lasting name, than in humouring a short lived inclination: and such Affairs have happily assisted the virtue of many persons, who thus diverted an injurious leisure; and as the Poet ascribed, the effeminacy of the *Greek* to his idleness; so the want of a just Interest to manage, has brought in most of those inconveniences that are found in the world; and that pleasantness and gayness, which is childishly called.

called good humour, so much idolized in the single life, what is it but a trifling and strange impertinence! a thing without all conduct and prudence, and after the follies of youth are over, even insupportable to those who have the most admired it: All excesses in nature usually produce the other extremes; so the most aspiring Monarchs have often turned Fryers, shrouding the glories and lustres of Regal Majesty in the Sables of a Cloyster, and men excessively voluptuous, grow strangely neglectful and solitary when

when they are old : What judgment can we pass on this, any otherwise then that they lavishly spend the prudent stock of Nature, which becoming bankrupt by excessive practices, they are after forced to yield to those humours, which speak the wants and poverties of Nature. Marriage is suited to the just temperament of things ; whilst the other practices consist in those excesses that exhaust and debilitate nature ; which like ground too much used, grows languid and unfruitful, the mediocrity is that
which.

which was designed in the Affairs of the universe: And he who takes them out of that Channel, makes them overflow all things of prudence and advantage, neither will they be any longer useful and excellent when they grow irregular: It is enough, that by the allotments and discipline transmitted to us, we may live with solace and advantage; but if we neglect those Rules, we can expect nothing but disorder and confusion. Marriage has hitherto defended the Interests and the repose of the world from an extravagancy

travaganey that in all Ages
 has endeavoured to assault
 them : And whilst Mankind
 grow weary of so brave and
 successful a defence : It is
 well if they find out another
 equal to it, though it is very
 much to be feared, that those
 little Arts on which they
 rely, will soon let them see
 the error of that fancy,
 when they must call to their
 assistance a greater force,
 then what their Poets, or
 their new Philosophers can
 bring them, and the sad ef-
 fects of this gayness, and those
 Chymera's, will easily be
 resigned for the other useful
 and

and practical seriousness,
 then their modish humours,
 their refined and elevated
 fancies, their careless and
 unaffected fashioning of
 things, together with their
 courageous and profound
 searches into Nature, will
 appear the sleights of those
 Empericks that have undone
 the world, and if we shall
 not be capable of so much
 repentance as to curse our
 selves, our posterity will do
 it for us, for sending them
 into the world, rather fit for
 Hospitals, or for Bedlam,
 then the Affairs of a just
 and happy life: To whom
 the

the good nature of their fathers, for being so easily abused, will appear a horrid crime to their Issue, whilst they take to themselves what they called a wild pleasure, but left to these a serious smart, and they must apply themselves to that Marriage, that was injured and affronted by their Fathers, which can only free them from the Tyranny of those practices, to whom they had given the Dominion, whose novelty and great liberty so far prevailed upon them, as to forget their Obligations, and their own Affairs, and without

out any remorse to see Sa-
 crificed the being of many
 Families, and the prosperity
 and contentment of others,
 whose waists and ruines de-
 clare by whom they have
 been plundered : Neither
 will that fantastick Disci-
 pline, under which they
 foolishly endeavour to put
 their extravagant practices,
 bring any security and bene-
 fit to the world, which be-
 sides its standing on an un-
 just foundation, can reach
 to nothing but a security
 from *Bravos*. Marriage
 knows all the Traverses and
 Turns of Humane Affairs,
 and

and stands on a foundation of Natures laying : Neither will that be transmitted down for right, that has been wrong and injustice in every Age : But we may imagine, they endeavour not to bring their designs to perfection, least they should too near resemble the abhorred Wedlock : they can hardly invent any thing wild enough, and debauched enough for their own practices, their appetites call upon them for new extravagancies ; and those who furnish them with variety, are at a loss to contrive fast enough

enough to please them.
 Whilst we have thus Sir,
 drawn the *Portrait* of Mar-
 riage, and reckon'd up its
 advanages, if we reflect upon
 it, we shall find the injustice
 that some men have done it :
 As for those who admire
 unsociable and solitary tem-
 pers, they can have but slender
Pleas to an excellent mind :
 Nature design'd no man to
 that vanity, as to be taken
 up with the contemplation
 of his own endowments, like
 the fantastick youth, who
 made love to, and died for
 himself : The only way to
 take a right view of our
 own

own good qualities, is to see them in less flattering *Mirrors*, and to have them drawn by those advantages and benefits we communicate to others : He that gathers all, his great endowments into his own Breast, and keeps them there, like *Roses* that grow in *Desarts*, he dies uncommended and uninjoyed : all virtue is diffusive, and loves occasions to exercise its vivacy and vigour ; and what we carry about us, sufficiently declares that we were not designed to be happy alone, whilst both the solace of the mind,
and

and an endeared life, consist in an union with something different ; the brightest Colours owe their vivacy to the shade, and Nature has set Virtue like Diamonds in Jet, within the Circle of difficult services : And I cannot remember, that ever the Cloyster, that great Receptacle of the drowsy life, did ever oblige the world, by many excellent performances ; we know very well what poisoned Arrows have been shot from those Coverts, that have pained and enraged the bosom of many Ages ; but they are yet to give a proof of

their kindness to Humane Nature , and their present carelessness and vices , have put us beyond all hope of expecting it. But yet, it is another sort of speculation, which we are to accuse in these reflections. Some there are, who with great folly and injustice, make Marriage the subject of their reproaches ; we do not accuse any for embracing the single life, whose Virtue is strong enough to bear them through all the hazards of youth and inclination, but yet, those who do this, ought to let it be with less pride and affectation

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 fection: But that is the
 strange rudeness of the pre-
 sent sentiments, to mock at
 all practices that are different
 from their own ; and though
 such light discourses will
 weigh very little with wise
 and prudent Persons, yet
 unexperienced youth is apt
 to be affected with things
 confidently delivered, though
 there be sometimes little
 sense in them, but this is
 not only the matter of
 conversation, but the ad-
 mired Theam of some wri-
 tings, and being a subject
 capable of keenness, and
 something of novelty, men
 endeavour

endeavour to raise the reputation of wit on that foundation : But I wish they would consider with how much disingenuity and unworthiness they do it : Never did any Age so thirst after the fame of being Wits, yet no Age has acquired so ingloriously that Title ; It is not sure impossible for men of such great abilities as they give themselves out to be, to please and instruct the world at once, and not to build the Triumphs of their Eloquence, on the ruins of their Morals ? How little reason has Mankind to
 admire

admire them, who furnish it with wit at so dear a rate: They may tell us, that affected *Pedants*, capable of no generosity, have for a silly fame wounded the bosome of sacred and civil things, but we are astonished to see those who pretend to be Gentlemen of great breeding and nobleness to exceed their crime, and how unhappy ought they to esteem themselves, that the first proof which they give of their injustice to humane Affairs, and their ingratitude to their Fathers, should be on the most important, and

H

most

most excellent concerns
 of the universe. They
 have introduced infinite
 Punctilio's of respect, and
 observance, they pretend to
 correct the bluntness, and in
 obsequiousness of past Ages;
 but they wound the sub-
 stance, whilst they adore
 the shadow, and we expect
 from them to shew that re-
 spect, which is so powerful
 a part of their Genius, to the
 most important concern-
 ments which have been so
 revered in the world, and so
 beneficial to Humane Race. If
 they must exercise that doat-
 ed on wit of theirs, let them
 choose

choose a subject more agreeable to the Interest and complexion of Mankind, and let them think it to be a little rude, to reproach the practice of their Fathers; and the greatest part of the world, which they do in speaking against Marriage: But never any Age had more trifling Gallantries, and yet none was evermore in love with them; great capacities use to be serious, modest and unaffected; but now he that owns a little wit, makes such a noise with it, as to disturb the quiet and the serious Affairs

of the world; If they would have us admire their great abilities, let them give us a more excellent proof of them; let them again rescue those Interests which they have betrayed, or else pretend to merit nothing, but the reproaches and curses of the world. But that which is yet a more important injury to Marriage, is a certain humour and opinion taken up by some people, that it is a piece of Gallantry and good Breeding, to divert our selves with sacred Wedlock, as an extraordinary proof that we have overcome the Flegm of

a degenerate complexion ;
 if we spend all our life in
 frolick *Amours*. There is ano-
 ther accusation, that belongs
 to these reflections ; and that
 is, of those who are of this
 Condition, whole affection
 to it ought to be commend-
 ed ; but their follies and in-
 discretions ought to be accu-
 sed : It is not always found,
 that a good intention can
 free it self from the blemishes
 of an ill conduct, and the fol-
 lies of many Persons, have
 rendred some things ridicu-
 lous, that would have sup-
 ported their gravity in a
 better management in this

H 3 enquiry,

enquiry, the subject is extream nice and critical, and so ought to be made with great wariness and circumspection; besides, to pry into the miscarriages of others in so close an union is a little imprudent; but yet our ordinary conversation and notice will furnish us with this belief, that many commit those follies in Wedlock, that become matter of divertisement to some Persons, and and an extream scandal to others. One great cause to be ascribed of this, is, that men live narrowly, and to their particular inclinations,

ons, and humours, forgetting that they are to support a common concernment; and we may very well believe, that men may find as much ease, and a great deal more generous contentment, if they tyed up their inclinations to a severe discretion, then in permitting them to wanton in all the liberties of their little freedoms; How few live with a careful respect to their reputation, and fewer consider the importance of a publick aim; which neglects giving birth to perpetual follies and affections; amongst other

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things

things, that they prejudice, Marriage suffers in the opinion of the indifferent or prepossessed; Any thing that is uneasie in Wedlock should be concealed, and supported with a gravity, that might cover it from the Spectators; No man should gad abroad with his complaints, which as they render his condition nothing the more easie, so they either importune, or divert those to whom they are communicated; it is tiresome to the serious man to be entertained with the follies of another; and it is Comical to the Frolick;

So

So that we receive no advantage by such sallies of great weakness and indiscretion, and yet, though the satisfaction be so momentary, as only the easing of a present fulness, yet the revelation of such Matters spread in conversation, and remains long enough as a blemish on that Condition; this open temper, has in some made an injurious progress; reproaching with the worst treachery the intimacies of Marriage; the first Espousals proclaimed that two were one, thereby to unite all their concernments: The

gallant *Portia*, tried her
 crisy on her wounded Arm,
 to make an experiment of
 her Sexes sufficiency; which
 whilst she bravely rescued
 from thereproches it had suf-
 fer'd, she retorted the blushing
 scandal upon ours: Friendship
 is of all other blessings the
 greatest solace to humane Life,
 and it is not only intimate,
 but sacred in the Circle of
 Marriage: To communicate
 our troubles, is to lessen
 them; and the Philosopher
 advised us, not to eat the
 Heart, which he meant of
 secret and concealed griefs:
 The great distrust of some
 men

men has appeared in hiding
under ground their wealth,
and this Age has in part
reason to have the same care
of their thoughts, which those
had of their Treasure: Man-
kind were at first distinguish-
ed into particular dwellings,
that they should have sepa-
rated Interests; and enjoy
their contentments in an un-
discovered shade; we call
it good humour to use all
manner of freedom in our
conversacion; but how sel-
dome is it found, that others
will well interpret, what we
well design, It were easie
Sir, to lead this Current
further,

further, but it would be no discretion to do it; and many times we decline a safe Conduct, because we fantasti- cally love our own manage- ment. 'Tis moreover cer- tain, they best see their er- rours, who discover them by their own light, And that not only, because we find our selves in some disorder to have them revealed; but also, from a certain pride that puts us upon justifying all we do; and besides, all the dexterity of another, can never fit the *Perspective* to our own sight: But yet, there are somethings so remarka- ble,

ble, that there is no need
 of these Glaffes to discover
 them, and there are some
 crimes committed against that
 Relation, which none will
 attempt to extenuate, that
 respect would be very inju-
 rious, that should forbear
 the censure of the great
 scandals that are flung upon
 Marriage : The inconti-
 nence of the Espoused, is
 that *Crime* whose Bowels are
 filled with many others :
 Neither can we readi'y say,
 the influence it has had in the
 world ; since it is evident
 that the sacredness of this
 Institution, has kept the
 Power

Power above us with respect upon our minds : Other things have (though unjustly) been accused of Art, but the great Antiquity of Marriage declares its divine original : And it has received the same respect in diversities of Nations, and Religions, its Honour is so tender, that the least blot reproaches it; and besides, encourages the hardyness of after attempts, which take them for a President, who were the first Invaders of this separated state; by whose attempts not only that condition, which appeared

ed the principal foundation of the most excellent advantages, became shaken and infirm, but a way was opened to that liberty, which after made its incursions into all revered concerns. The sacredness of an Oath, and Protestations uttered where Heaven and Earth were the Witnesses, became the trifles of Custom and design; which being made so by a wandering appetite, that crime became the encouragement to a freedom in other things: What assaulted the first innocence we very well know; and we have reason to believe

lieve, that this Crime was one of the first that attempted the concernments of the world ! And it is like to be that, which will give one of the last wounds it must feel before its ruine ; this impiety awaiting it with a strange desire, that it might owe the fate of its noblest affairs to its inhumanity alone, and no reproaches are keen enough for those, who have made these attempts, either from the solitary life, or within the sociable : The latter is the more prodigious instance of treachery and baseness, because he strikes

at the Heart and the Vitals; he breaks that faith on which Marriage is built, and destroys that fidelity which is so much of its Essence, he leaves it none of its reputation, but lays it under the reproaches of Artifices and a Juggle, he withholds others from applying themselves to it, whilst his practices perswade them, that it cures no appetites, nor practises any sincerity: He unworthily suffers them to think, that it is the Trap of youth, and a Gin in which Policy has caught our forward Inclinations: He Incourages in
 them

them a fancy, that it is better
 to practice those Liberties
 before we vow, and assure
 then to loose an Innocence
 in our restraint: He that
 draws the Adulterer with
 these Colours, will soon
 find his amazement at so
 horrid a spectacle; and justly
 believe that nothing is known
 so odious in *Affrica*, as this
 Monster of Society; since
 he that devours the sinceri-
 ty and the candour of any
 thing, shows a worse cruel-
 ty then the sucking of its
 Blood, and the generous at
 any time, loose their repu-
 tation with more regret then
 their

their lives: He has made
 Marriage to survive its Ho-
 nour, and to remain a
 scandalized Institution: He
 has put the affront on the
 first founder; and mocked
 at the Limits of Nature; he
 has endeavoured to perswade
 the world by his experience,
 that Marriage is incapable
 of its designs, and that the
 Ranges of Lust were to no
 purpose inclosed, whilst the
 appetite is as ungoverned
 even in that Condition,
 which was designed to cure
 it, as in a common enjoy-
 ment. We will only say
 further to these Persons, that
 they

they stand in the first Rank of Criminals, and that it had been better they had never come into the world, then only to have lived to have done so much mischief in it; and that they must one day be called from their Graves, to be confronted with the injured Affairs of the universe, and not expect ever to sleep without the *Spectres* of those wounded Interests. And now Sir, after we have been serious so long, it is agreeable to our youth, to divert ourselves a little, with the pleasant and the beautiful Scenes

of

of Love, it would be but just something to loosen a mind bound up to grave and serious considerations, by celebrating that Passion, which is as well the Vigour as the Imbelishment of Marriage; But we are to remember, that the Theory which has been exhibited to Ages of this Inclination, is very much different from that Practick that has assisted the Affairs of the world; and we must go another course then what we have already took, if we will follow the Current, where the Poetick fancy has led it: for those are the

men who have pretended all along to extoll and refine it: Though the Discipline under which it was put by the Ancients, was very unlike to the modern Regulations. They made it seek the society of Shepherds, and confined it to the Woods and the Mountains, it spent its time in weaving *Corollas*, and was busied in fashioning the address that merited the Garland: It appeared bashful and unsociable, shunning the guilt of ambition, with the noise and Artifices of Cities: It could divert it self with
tel-

telling the murmurs of a Fountain, with reposing under the Mirtle, or in weaving about the Pine with amorous Characters; It only signalized it self in the victories of May: and preserved no greater marks of its State, then the Tabor, and the Oat-pipe: It valued it self upon its sincerity, and knew no other bravery then to accompany in Death the valued Object: It affected a mind as free from Artifice, as that beauty to which it vowed, and opened its Soul, as well as spent its Caresses in the Sun-beams, but this
un

affected life, was yet judged too inglorious and solitary for it, by the briskness of after Poets, who believed that it should value less its innocence than its glory, which made them lead it to those places where it might signalize it self in braver exploits, their Predecessors had fashioned it too rude and simple, and had armed it with a Power that could purchase it no Renown, whilst it was busied in a lorry Chase, on the Lawnes and the Mountains. They therefore took it from so trifling a Discipline, they led it to Courts,

Courts, and gave it the
 command of Armies: They
 disrobed it of the Habili-
 ments of a Shepherd, and
 changed the Oat-pipe for a
 Trumpet; they made it feel
 its vigour, and experiment
 the force of its Nature: A
 distrust of its strength had
 made it live ingloriously, and
 they taught it what great
 things it was able to do;
 They made it not only to
 despise the Sheep-hook, but
 to make a trifle of Crowns:
 but it was necessary that it
 should accommodate it self
 to a disposition suitable to
 its enterprizes, which made
 I them

them exchange its sincerity
 and plainness, for dissimula-
 tion and hollow Caresses:
 Neither did it ill manage
 these endowments, if we
 may credit their Records.
 It brought in the faithless
Greek the fire that burnt *Ilium*
 to Ashes; and destroyed
 what was then the fairest
 Dominion of the Earth:
 but yet it was not altogether
 intent upon one design;
 whilst it stopped the Glory
 and Victories of *Achilles*, and
 sent him invisible Chains,
 from a captiv'd Town.
 It triumphed over Regal
 Authority, Duty, and the
 care

care of a Patrimony in the violent *Scylla Eliza* left not only her *Tyre*, but a glorious life imperfect, whilst she became a Sacrifice to the Love of spruce *Æneas*. It has gone through the Blood of the Innocent to reach a Throne, where it might appear in Royal imbelishments to its Object. It has managed Intelligence in Glances, and communicated Plots by the Character of Looks: It has been a spie in Armies, and fashioned the Intrigues of Court. These their Poetick fury reckoned brave, but they have not at the

same time withheld it from
 odd performances : They
 have made it leap Precipices,
 swallow Daggers, made Bro-
 thers burne for Sisters, and
 invaded the Fathers right of
 Love by the ardour of the
 Son. The inhumane Greek
 Bedded his *Sestian* Maid, in
 the cold Sheets of Water,
 and left them to consum-
 mate in the *Hellepont*, those
 loves he had so painfully ex-
 tolled, The fantastick Ro-
 man, made *Narcissus* burne
 for the shadow of himself,
 with so feirce a Flame, as
 could only be quenched in
 that Fountain where he view-
 ed

ed his Image. It has turned the Issue of Kings to Pilgrims, and transported the Daughter of a *Cæsar*, to despise a brighter Immortality, whilst she affected the shade of a *Corinna*. Nay, under these managers, Love has sought an Empire beyond the confines of Nature, and carried the remains of Rational beings, to Vegetables, and inanimate : It has turned Mortals to Fountains, to Trees, to Eccho's, and to Wall-flowers, preserving only in the note, the murmur, or the fragrant Character, the remembrances of a former

I 3 state,

state, the wantonness of the
 Poetick fancy, have in these
 instances appeared very ex-
 travagant ; though they de-
 sign'd in all, to shew the in-
 vincible Power of Love,
 whilst changing Natures
 could not change Desire :
 Neither could all the cruel-
 ties of a Metamorphosis dis-
 oblige a faithful Passion ;
Eccho though grief has worn
 her to a shadow , preserves
 yet strength enough to an-
 swer to an amorous Call, the
Heliotrope yet links the pre-
 sence of the cruel Sun, and
 appears Melancholly, when
 he forsakes its Company. But
 yet,

yet, after all these cruelties and strange Experiments, the Poetick fancy could not otherwise atone for so much barbarousness, but by obliging Love to shave, and retire to the Cloyster: The reflection on so much Blood as it had spilt, could not but naturally produce in it so great a Melancholly; But yet here, whilst it pretended to be a Devote, it proved a Monster; and could not forget the exercise of its former Tyranny; It is true, it grew more Circumspect, but not less guilty; it ruined equally though in a differ-

rent way : It formerly invaded the life and the felicity , and now the Innocence and the Honour : It was more open and plain in the former attempts, but now it affected privacy and Arts : The world had felt enough of its force and it therefore applied it self to Stratagem, and dissimulation, so long a War as it had he'd with humanity, had taught them to reinforce and fortifie themselves, and therefore undermined what it could not assault ; It took the habit of a Recluse, and it made many of their orders appear but *Fratricelles* ; It shewed

to the world a mortified
 look, and an Innocent Ha-
 bit ; But its Altars burnt
 with as brisk a Flame, and
 were thronged with lascivi-
 ous Votaries ; it grew weary
 of open cruelties, but strange-
 ly enamoured of those pri-
 vate sleights : Here with a
 show of great humility it
 devoured the portions of an
 excellent Virtue, and consu-
 med the Innocence of the
 world, with Fire disguised
 in Snow-balls : It whisper-
 ed Intrigues through the
 Monastick Grate, and made
 assignations at the foot of an
 Altar : it coma'd amo-
 I 5 rous

rous sentences with Beads;
 and vigourated a lascivious
 Song with the Airs of an
 Anthem : It bore it self dis-
 guized into the Pallaces of
Magnificos, and practised dis-
 honour, whilst it proclaim-
 ed a Shrift : It resorted to
 the Chair of confession only
 to ease an amorous bosome,
 and demanded from the Fa-
 ther, not absolution but
 assistance : It kept Leigers
 in Republicks of Virgins, and
 held Intelligence with fide-
 lity and Honour : It was a-
 dored wherever it came, and
 prevented jealousy by the
 reputation of sanctity. But
 though

though the successes of Love were great in this shade ; yet it participated so much of a natural inconstancy , as to grow weary of so easie a prosperity , and left its recesses for more publick encounters : Its Elogies here blunted the Poetick fancy, whose flights whilst they were happy were yet regular and confined ; they resolved to make it a mad Cap, that it might better serve the Rhiming reach , that has been so much the Idol of present Ages, here it acknowledged a Divinity, and shewed a respect to Piety
and

and Altars: But they better affected its old Ethnick prophaneness; they liked it only when it was too vigorous for Earth, and too extravagant for Heaven: They gave it a power above Immortality, and fashioned it a quality that should *Paramount* the Universe. And no sooner had they thus took it from the Cell, but they furnished it out a Knight Errant, and made it traverse Desarts, they inured it to hardship, and often forced it to take up its Lodgings at the foot of an Oak, or the Banck of a Rivulet, whilst it

was

was fed, *Camleon* like, on the Air of sighs and reproaches, it exercised its courage in hunting of Ravishers, in rescuing distressed Damsels ; in obtaining the freedom of captiv'd Knights, and in putting an end to enchantments ; whilst sometimes again it affected the killing of Dragons, the encountering of horrid Visions ; and in appointing assignations in the dark apartments and Residence of Spirits. But succeeding Poets declined these Melancholy fancies ; whilst they took Love from that Discipline, and applied it to
the

the Affairs of Grandeur and Society : They adopted it into the Family of Atoms, and made it the Captain of those Numerous Legions : They gave it an extravagant and unlimited Commission, and made it equal with that appetite which they believe to be the Genius of the Universe ; and the Trace they have led it, has been agreeable to their Idea's , they have brought it on Theatres, to inspire those *Bravo's* whom they call their *Hero's* : They have thought fit that it should signalize it self only in prodigies of valour, and miracles.

miracles of Council : It has
 bestowed a sufficiency on a
 single Person to rout Armies,
 to look Kings out of their
 Thrones, and to make Con-
 quests more facile then Ru-
 ine , and more easie then
 Traverses : It has baffled all
 the Stratagems of an Adver-
 sary, and wound about at
 pleasure the fidelity and
 courage of numerous Armies;
 all which are found but
 mean Exploits in the Records
 of their *Dryades*. But yet
 it does not always keep con-
 stant to the point of this
 elevation ; neither does it
 ever affect to be so Heroick ;
 it

it is often pleased to divert
it self with meaner Actions :
And to fashion the foole-
ries of Comedy : It can
make Experiments on the
Groome, and is not averse
from an Intrigue with the
Landress ; It is pleased with
the small incounters, and the
fallacies of Mascarade , and
delights in being Cajol'd, and
in committing Errours : Its
Principles speake it an Epi-
cure, and declare its abhor-
rance to be bound up to the
high Rules of its Glory ,
whilst it finds the sweetest
Pleasures in the most extra-
vagant Liberties; though it can
some-

sometimes despise Crowns,
 and toss them from one head
 to another, yet it is not al-
 ways pleased with so hardy
 an exercise : It can with as
 much pleasure, manage the
 designs of the Chamber-
 maid, and receive Proposi-
 tions from the brawny
 Clown, that greatness is un-
 easie to it, which stands a-
 bove the divertisments of
 ordinary men, and it now
 less affects Glory then good
 Humour. But though this
 passion appears active and
 vigorous, yet it seems
 but the effects of its Age;
 whilst it pleases it self in
 odd

odd and fruitless performances : It studies infinite researches, and the Punctilio's of a Genius weak and defective, it grows hard to humour, and is pleased with niceties and Criticisms, before things brave and substantial : The Poetick Lawgivers have formed it a State, and designed its observance ; but it is weary of that troublesome greatness, and they are forced to indulge it in little Frolicks, and childish diversions. It has reach'd its *Climacterical* Year, and forgets its Grandeur so fast, that all the lofty nonsense of its ablest

ablest Ministers, cannot preserve it from a sottish Lechargy, they have carried it to the Magnificent Pallaces of Command, they have shewed it the state it should preserve, and remonstrated it with an Eloquence, more charming and refined then their Fathers ever knew; But it see's not the force of these splendid Harangues; and its glorious managers must lament their misfortune, that they were born in an Age, when Love was so unable to comply with those precepts, which they are so capable of giving; So Rich and Magnificent

Magnificent a ~~sence~~ in the
 dayes of its Youth, had
 found it an abroad in Stars,
 (from which some of its Dire-
 ctors pretend it to have come)
 and it had used no more
 these mortal divertisements:
 But unhappy Poets, they
 practice in a time, when its
 Nature is unfit to comply
 with the Excellencies of
 their Art; and yet they are
 ● resolved not to be altoge-
 ther unsuccessful, they will
 accompany it to another
 world; Nay, they have
 sent their Poetick fancies
 before it, to prepare an E-
 lizium, to furnish it with
 Grot-

Grotto's, with shady Groves,
 and Rivers ; They have
 designed it an Eternal busi-
 ness, to repeat a past fide-
 lity, and the Triumphs of
 mortal incounters ; They
 have put it into the Arms of
 a perpetual Spring of Beau-
 ty, leaned it on a fragrant
 bosome, and under the in-
 fluence of bright and shining
 Eyes ; wherein so sweet a
 recess, it must entertain it
 self for ever with repeating
 its humane Atchievements ;
 yer if it find these Pleasures
 too luscious, they will
 permit it that variety in
 Heaven, which they allowed
 on

on Earth ; They have formed it assignations in wither'd hollow Trees, and weary Traverses in Sooty Regions; They can imagine a perfect tranquility in nothing, and have framed their *Elizium* according to the Colour and Figure of its Atoms; which they esteem a happy thought, since it would dull so vigorous a Passion to be confined to one enjoyment : It would be tired with sitting for ever still; and therefore they resolve it shall be perplexed in innumerable Labyrinths, that it shall grow Melancholly,

cholly, and delight to behold the purple Current of a Wound, that it shall encounter the *Spectres* of jealousy, and fright it self with its own shadow, that it shall Tilt in Tournaments of fancy, overthrow Rivals, and win Garlands : Thus have the Poets plotted an Immortal business to themselves in the managements of Love, But yet they will not leave its languishing Affairs upon Earth, though they accompany its lofty Genius to *Elizium*; yet they

they will not quit its Earthly part, whilst it rots in dirty Actions, they will force a freshness from that withered Trunk, and persuade the world, that it is still as lovely, and as charming; as in all the vivacity and sweetness of its Life: But it is high time to leave them, when they grow so Extravagant. Thus Sir, have I given you a Prospect of the Poetick Image, which you will find very unlike to that which has the ascendant of Marriage: The
 busie

busie world has all along
 lain below this Roman-
 tick Passion, and would
 have nothing to do with
 its Chimera's: Sometimes
 it received a wound from
 those Fantaſms; But it
 endeavoured to cure it as
 fast as it could: They have
 often made it propositions
 for a Commerce, but they
 were always strange and
 extravagant: Sometimes they
 were too rude and simple,
 and of a Melancholly be-
 low its active Affairs: O-
 therwhile they were too
 Heroick, and flew above
 head

K

their

their humility. Its reality
 was too sordid, and its
 imbelishments altogether
 useless and Romantick; It
 therefore with great justice,
 excluded them all from its
 conversation, and took those
 Idea's that were the pro-
 duct of Actions, and not
 of the Brain; It entertain-
 ed nothing above its Affairs,
 and preserved those bene-
 fits in vigorous Actions,
 whilst it refused to refine
 them by idle Harangues;
 It saw too plainly, in o-
 ther concernments, that
 their imbelished Theories
 had

had ruined their practice,
 and therefore would not
 admit of the leisure to
 be flourish'd and extoll'd;
 It despis'd Artful and fine
 Records, whilst it only
 valued an active and vi-
 gorous tradition; which
 it has convey'd to this Age,
 in spite of all the attempts
 have been made upon it;
 and if it must be its Doom
 to suffer now, it will not
 only fall a Victim to the
 injustice and sottishness
 of barbarous men, but
 stand a mighty instance
 of the approaching Ca-
 K 2 tastrophe,

catastrophe of the world;
 which will even before its
 dissolution, grow too like
 that *Chaos* it must be at
 last; whilst all its virtue
 and glory will be darkened,
 and grow a place frequent-
 ed only by a savage ap-
 petite, in all its horrid
 shapes, a youthful *Virtue* must
 Traverse it with abhorrency,
 whilst it incounters so ma-
 ny frightful representations
 of vice, and the Ghosts of
 murdered Honours, and it
 must at the same time pre-
 serve it self from the *Cyrcean*
Poetick Note, whose harmo-
 nious

nious blandishments will
 lead it upon the Precipices
 of ruine and dishonour, and
 are the great procures of
 the Prey for monstrous vices.
 And thus that frame which
 began with innocence and
 Marriage, will end with
 Crimes, and with the con-
 tempt of it, it rose with peace-
 ful and amicable virtue; but
 must fall with cruel and war-
 ring vices, and those Flames
 in which it shall suffer, will
 like burning Glasses, be a
 mirror to shew the mon-
 strous attempts of this Age;
 The Atheist must behold
 with

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With honour a confutation
of his bold Philosophy, in
the Period of that world,
to which he had given so
fantastick a beginning, and
the Poet, will with the same
surprize, see it the Stage of
that Tragedy, that will out-
do all the colours of his Dra-
matick fancy.



F I N I S.



ERRATA.

Page 49. l. 1. for *ertous* r. *errours*. p. 51. l. 6. for *our* to
r. *to our*. p. 52. l. 10. for *appeared* r. *appeared*. p. 58. ll.
16. 'or *presidid* r. *presided*. p. 65. l. 4. for *seeing* r. *seeing*.
p. 66. l. 1. for *insensible* r. *insensibly*. p. 93. l. 1. for *assented* r.
assaulted. p. 124. l. 10. for *Rialdry* r. *Ribaldry*. p. 131. l. 9.
for *have the most* r. *have most*.

